FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

20 JANUARY 1987

Iran-Iraq War

A military communique broadcast by Tehran radio announced that Iranian forces launched the third phase of the Karbala 5 offensive 18-19 January, stating that Revolution Guards advanced 1 km west of the Jasim River, which joins the Shatt al Arab 10 km east of Basra. IRNA claimed that Iraqi losses in Karbala 5 rose to 31,500 casualties by 20 January with 47 planes downed. Iranian forces had earlier captured three islands in the Shatt al Arab, bringing them to the outskirts of the Iraqi port of Abu al-Khasib, according to IRNA.

Iraq denied Iran's claims in a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio, asserting that the Iraqi III Army Corps withstood an assault by 30-40,000 Guards and "harvested" successive waves of attackers. An Iraqi commander cited by INA 20 January likewise dismissed Iran's "baseless claims and cheap lies" about advancing toward Basra.

The fighting along the southern battlefront was accompanied by further attacks on cities, including Tehran and Baghdad. An Iraqi communique carried by Voice of the Masses stated that Ayatollah Khomeyni's headquarters was the target of a 17 January raid on the Iranian capital. Tehran radio acknowledged that an Iraqi plane penetrated Tehran airspace and bombed a residential area, killing three people. Over 360 Iranian civilians were killed in Iraqi strikes on other Iranian cities 17-20 January and hundreds more were injured, according to IRNA reports. The heaviest casualties were in Sanandaj, Kordestan Province, where 235 were killed.

As for attacks on Iraq, IRNA reported that Iran fired missiles at Baghdad 16 and 20 January. Iraqi statements carried by Voice of the Masses said the attacks caused civilian casualties. Iranian artillery and air attacks on Basra and other Iraqi areas 16-18 January killed 39 Iraqis and wounded 138, according to communiques broadcast by the radio.

Afghanistan

Leaders of the seven main Afghan rebel groups meeting in Islamabad 17 January vowed to continue their armed resistance against the Kabul regime and called for the creation of an interim mujahidin government in Afghanistan, XINHUA reported. The rebel leaders, who dismissed the DRA's cease-fire proposal as "empty overtures," agreed to set up a commission to meet 1 February to draft the laws and regulations of the interim government, AFP noted. In other developments, Karachi radio reported the bombing of mujahidin positions in Nangarhar and Paktia Provinces 16 January. On the same day, mujahidin in Qandahar Province damaged a tank and killed its crew, the radio reported.

Pakistan

Soviet Consultations — Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Kovalev, who is visiting Islamabad, held high-level official talks with Pakistani officials on Afghanistan, Karachi radio reported. The Soviet news agency TASS said the consultations were being conducted "in an atmosphere of frankness and a desire for mutual understanding."

Border Buildup — Pakistan has reportedly mobilized hundreds of troops and more than 10,000 "offensive reserves" along its border with India, according to PTI reports cited by AFP 18 January. A spokesman for the Pakistani mission in New Delhi refused comment, the AFP report said. Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said the concentration of Pakistani troops at the border is causing "tremendous concern," Delhi radio reported. Speaking at a 20 January press conference in New Delhi, Gandhi said Pakistani forces had been engaged in maneuvers at the border but remained at the frontline position instead of withdrawing at the end of the exercises.

Lebanon

"Observers" expect that two U.S. hostages will be released following the "progress" made by Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite, Voice of Lebanon radio reported 20 January. Nevertheless, an FRG businessman was kidnapped in Beirut 17 January, DPA reported, disclosing that the Shi'ite group Hizballah has demanded the release of a Lebanese held in West Germany in exchange for the businessman. Meanwhile, Waite's departure was delayed by an outbreak of street fighting in West Beirut, AFP noted. The clashes followed an unsuccessful attempt to assassinate Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Sidon-based Nasirite Popular Organization, according to the Voice of Lebanon.

In another development, Israeli military sources cited by Jerusalem radio denied Lebanese reports that Israeli gunboats shelled Palestinian targets near Sidon 19 January. The Voice of Lebanon cited reports that six people were wounded in a bombardment by six Israeli gunboats.

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Najibullah Addresses NFF Congress 15 Jan
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[Speech by PDPA General Secretary Najibullah to the National Fatherland Front Congress in Kabul on 15 January — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Esteemed Hatef, [Abdorrahim Hatef, NFF Central Council chairman] noble representatives, esteemed foreign guests. The second NFF congress is the most important political and social event in the country's political life. The development of very important social processes — which determine the destiny of Afghanistan's people at the turning point in our country's history, and which, no doubt will have a great value in the future — has an unbreakable link with the NFF.

Representatives of all Afghanistan and all patriotic forces are gathered in this hall. You are the creators of the proud history of our country's today and tomorrow.

I present to you sincere congratulations from myself, the Politburo, the Revolutionary Council, and the Council of Ministers on the occasion of the start of the second NFF congress.

Allow me to express heart-felt appreciation to the foreign guests who are here to take part in the congress. By their valuable participation in this congress, they add to our confidence in the truth of our revolutionary cause.

I wish further successes for our friends and comrades, and those organizations they represent, in the struggle for the unity of the national and patriotic forces and a blossoming future for their people.

The creation and activities of the NFF are the outcome of our revolutionary people and the April Revolution. There has never been such a mass and prestigious organization in the history of Afghanistan. Our sovereign people, by developing the tradition of our dear country, have created unparalleled conditions toward the fulfillment of the common interests of all strata and patriotic forces of Afghanistan's society. These common interests are a guarantee of national independence and peace in the country; putting into practice the gains of the revolution aimed at the removal of poverty and backwardness; respect for the sacred religion of Islam; defense of human dignity of each Afghan; and building a society of social justice in Afghanistan.

The fruitful activities of the NFF are the brightest manifestation of our people's common interests in solving their vital problems. During the 5 years that have elapsed since the first NFF congress, the NFF has taken major steps toward achieving the unity and cohesion of national and patriotic forces and social organizations.

In the difficult condition of undeclared war, and despite the conspiracies of imperialism and regional reaction, the NFF managed to form around 4,000 councils in the country's cities and villages, and played a noticeable role in the implementation of the revolutionary transformation. NFF members are the patriots of our country and brave combatants of the revolutionary troops, who, arms in hand, with self-sacrifice, defend the gains of the revolution and struggle for the implementation of its aims and tasks.

Allow me to express thanks on behalf of the Central Committee for your selfless and noble work. Experience has shown that the principle policy in the consolidation of the NFF and the enhancement of its role in the social and political life of the country and the improvement of the social organizations linked to the NFF, is true and correct.

The party Central Committee, following this assessment, invites you to resolve the following issues during the congress: How to enhance the role of the NFF in our society; how to consolidate the front from the standpoint of organization; how to enrich the work of the front with the new requirements; how to free the front from bureaucracy and a formulative approach in its measures. Where is the key for solving these difficult issues?

The 19th PDPA Central Committee Plenum emphasized that at the present stage of the development of the revolution our main duty is the reconstruction of all spheres of the life of Afghanistan's society. The 20th plenum again pointed out that reconstruction is the continuation and consolidation of revolution. On this basis we could achieve a rapid end to the bloodshed and the undeclared war, and ensure national reconciliation. This policy, supported by the party and people, is aimed at a fundamental reconstruction of work and the achievement of its best results.

Esteemed representatives: As you know, some time ago the extraordinary and enlarged PDPA Central Committee plenum was held. The plenum concentrated the efforts of the party and people to realize the program of national reconciliation. This problem is the most urgent and vital issue of our party policy. The principles of reconciliation are simple and understood by everyone.

Esteemed Hatef spoke in his report of these principles, and you will be reminded of them in our message in connection with unilateral cease-fire and combat operations throughout the territory of Afghanistan. You know that the aforementioned principles have been specified in the Revolutionary Council statement concerning national reconciliation and the documents of the extraordinary supreme commission for national reconciliation in Afghanistan. Our party, by putting forward the national reconciliation program in Afghanistan, has proved its deep interest, with its words and deeds, to implement this, along with its readiness to cooperate with all patriotic forces. We are ready for direct, honest, and mutually acceptable dialogue and for reasonable compromise. We approach the achievement of national reconciliation from a position of political realism and flexibility. We see not only the vital and urgent need for reconciliation, but a real possibility to achieve it. Revolutionary sovereignty is stronger than ever. Revolutionary sovereignty rests upon the new state, which is able to defend itself, and which is implementing revolutionary transformations in the interests of the people. Revolutionary sovereignty rests upon the revolutionary solidarity and assistance of the reliable friends of Afghanistan, that is the USSR and other socialist countries, nonaligned countries, and all progressive forces of the world. National reconciliation

answers the demands of the people. National reconciliation began with the will of the people. The people understand that fratricide among Afghans and the deadly destruction in the country during the war is only in the interests of Afghans' sworn enemies. National reconciliation is the destiny of our people and there is no other alternative. Afghanistan should and will be transformed into a common home for all our compatriots who live anywhere in the world today.

There are some some people who are trying to destroy the revolutionary system — using national reconciliation — to weaken the combat spirit of our party and to weaken political work and its effect on the masses. It is necessary to tell these people that national reconciliation is not the destruction of the state or defeat for the party. These wishes will not be met. The national reconciliation policy is the manifestation of the power and strength of revolutionary sovereignty. In fact, peace on Afghan soil will even strengthen the revolutionary gains and give a better future to our people and country.

The process of struggle for national reconciliation, which began recently, is of vital significance and importance for our country, and all the world is now watching events in Afghanistan. Reaction to these events has become a buffer zone between enemies and friends of Afghanistan.

To achieve peace and national compromise in our country we rely on the fraternal assistance and revolutionary solidarity of the great USSR and other socialist countries.

These issues were at the center of our talks with M.S. Gorbachev and other Soviet leaders during our visit to Moscow, as well as during the visit of the high-ranking USSR delegation led by Comrades Eduard Shevardnadze and Dobrynin to Afghanistan. These talks proved the complete similarity of both side's opinions in connection with tactics and strategy for national reconciliation.

In order to display its desire for speeding up the political solution of the situation surrounding Afghanistan, the Soviet Union has returned six regiments of its forces from the limited Soviet military contingent, in the DRA as a result of the request of our government.

The Soviet Union and the DRA have reached agreement on preparing suitable grounds for the complete return of the limited contingent of the Soviet Union to its peace-loving country.

I would like to point out that future measures by the Soviet Union and the DRA are directly linked with reciprocal measures by the other side. We expect those who have imposed the war on our people and who organize armed interference in the affairs of the DRA to come to their senses, and first of all cease every kind of aggression against our country from outside and provide international guarantees of its nonresumption.

"It is appropriate to remind those who support and finance the undeclared war that in the event of the continuation of aggression against the DRA the Soviet Union will not leave us on our own. Our great northern neighbor is consistently supporting a nonaligned, independent, neutral, sovereign Afhanistan, the master of its resources and wealth. Such a stand is truly in accord with the national interests of all genuinely patriotic Afghans, wherever they may be.

This stand is a component part of the relentless struggle the Soviet Union is carrying out for the people's right to self-determination, peace, and the prevention of the threat of nuclear catastrophe. Today, 15 January, is the anniversary of the historic announcement by CPSU Central Committee General Secretary M. S. Gorbachev that nuclear weapons should be eliminated by the end of the present century and a world free of nuclear weapons should be built. We express our complete support for this peaceful program, which is in accord with the interests of all mankind, and we also support the letter from M.S. Gorbachev to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. (applause)

In the struggle for peace inside and outside the country we pay attention to the framework of the Nonaligned Movement, the Islamic Conference Organization's relations with neighboring countries, and the UN Organization. We are trying to make active use of every possibility for peace.

Esteemed delegates, the adoption of practical measures for national reconciliation will be a serious test for the consolidation of the entire political system which has been created by the revolution. In this regard the National Fatherland Front should stand in a key position in the implementation of the program of national reconciliation. The organization of the work of the extraordinary commissions of national reconciliation, the convening of peace assemblies and talks with armed groups, the involvement of people in peaceful work, and other urgent matters should be consistently at the center of attention of the NFF councils and all its activists. In order to solve these questions it is necessary to be practical and to pay maximum attention to the demands of the people and their supervision.

Courageous activity in the villages, the areas not under our control, and the improvement of work with the tribes are necessary. It is necessary to attract the attention of those people who have correctly realized the policy of national reconciliation and are true patriots.

The first task is to attract religious leaders and ulema, judges, doctors, teachers, elders, and other patriots who enjoy the true respect of the people into the ranks of NFF leading organs. Along with associating themselves with the policy of national reconciliation, the NFF and its leading organs and organizations should categorically resolve other vital tasks, too.

Let us consider the draft constitution. I can categorically state that the new constitution has come into being as a result of efforts by the NFF and by the esteemed Hatef, who led the working group. Truly serious work has been carried out in this area. The draft constitution will be the subject of a referendum. Preparation of the constitution is a very important event and a turning point in the history of the people of Afghanistan. Its appearance will entail great opportunities for involving the people as a whole and all individuals of all political beliefs in the historical resurgence of the new society and a new life in the persecuted land of Afghanistan. This is another clear manifestation of the fact that broad horizons for the true development of democracy and the

improvement of the political system of Afghan society will be opened before us.

Proposals concerning the enshrinement of the rights of the NFF and its leading organs and organizations in connection with the presentation of legislative proposals and initiatives, active participation in the implementation and drafting of laws, decrees and bills which relate to the broad masses of the people, the solution of tax-related matters, the distribution of land and water, and other vital matters are contained in the draft constitution.

The PDPA Central Committee supports all constructive proposals concerning the delegation of truly objective rights to the NFF. The NFF is broadening its work in residential areas based on the need for broadening the social bases of the revolution, the democratization of the political system of Afghan society, and the unification of all patriotic forces in their struggle for national reconciliation and for gaining new friends and allies. We are against the divisive principle which says: Those who are not with us are against us. Our principle is different: Those who are not against us are with us. I would like to emphasize that we carry out most of our explanatory work in residential areas. Therefore, it is very important that the residential areas be transformed into localities of learning for our people.

Dear delegates, matters related to the consolidation of the country's economy, the growth of social circles, and the improvement of the life of the people are in the center of attention of the party. The basic guidelines of the country's socioeconomic development for 1986-89 is being implemented. In accordance with this plan, net national production will raise by 25 percent, the volume of industrial production 38 percent, and agricultural production 14-16 percent. The development of the economy will provide an opportunity to solve most of the questions concerning the enhancement of the people's living standards.

Measures are being taken concerning the coordination of defined mutually beneficial relations between the state and the productive masses. I would like to express my gratitude for the great explanatory work the NFF organizations have rendered during the preparation of the 5-year plan. The NFF is now capable of broadly attracting the toilers toward improving their economic life. Our efforts should be directed toward training individuals to save money. The lack of savings, the extravagance, theft, and hoarding that exist in our country, inflict damage on the country's economy and create obstacles in the way of the realization of measures concerning the improvement of people's living conditions. It is necessary that the masses be attracted toward uprooting these problems and difficulties. The adoption of urgent measures concerning the (?organization) of land relations [as heard] is before us. The NFF councils and the extraordinary national reconciliation commissions in the localities — in consideration of the propositions of peace assemblies which will be convened in the near future — should put forward their proposals concerning the issues of land and water in the interest of peasants and farmers and increased agricultural production. Such proposals are necessary for the preparation of standard forms which will be responsive to the [word indistinct] of Islam, the national democratic characteristic of the revolution, the nature of the utilization of land in the country, and in the interests and aspirations of all strata of our society in the conditions of national reconciliation.

I would like to mention that the extraordinary national reconciliation commissions are authorized, in the event of necessity, to take important and special measures on matters related to land, and to temporarily stop the work of land and water reform groups.

For the NFF to take part in the accomplishment of nationwide tasks, it is necessary that the work of all its circles be resolutely reconstructed. Work already rendered should not be presumed to be complete. In connection with the limitation of this work, it should be confessed that in the course of several years, new organizations have not joined the NFF.

The NFF has not yet been transformed into a leading organization of the mass social organizations. What does this mean? Social organizations, if remaining in isolation of each other, cannot perform fruitfully and cannot utilize their potentials. System demands that all organizations, including the NFF, have a common goal, and with their specific methods and forms arrive at this goal.

What tasks are before us in connection with the work of reconstructing the NFF?

1. All social organizations in the NFF have not yet become truly mass organizations. The fact that the NFF has only 120,000 members is a matter of concern. Let us consider the membership of the trade unions. This figure is not so great. We can say the same thing concerning the youth and women's organizations. It should also be confessed that the people do not see social organizations as representing their interests. So far we do not have organizations in whose creation the people are interested, such as a peasant's union, an artisans' union, a union for transportation personnel, a traders' union, and others. The doors of the NFF should be open to all, even to those who have been deceived by the enemies or who are not in agreement with the aims of the revolution, yet, who consider themselves patriots of Afghanistan even in the face of those groups and organizations who do not officially recognize the PDPA platform. The NFF does not display sufficient courage and firmness in attracting such opposing forces.

In the present phase, we in the DRA, with the exception of the NFF, do not have any other organization able to attract other groups and parties, including those groups and parties with Islamic characteristics in its political structure. At present, with consideration of the requirements of time, they can, through participating in or joining the activity of the extraordinary national reconciliation commission or similar commissions in localities, be enlisted in the NFF.

2. The social organizations included in the NFF have weak links and weak common efforts. Usually the NFF has 730,000 collective members. This figure proves nothing on its own. It is a simple adding procedure. This is still a figure and is not yet a force. Some officials of the organigations included in the NFF jealously protect their immunity and independence. Instead of becoming mobilized around the NFF framework, they waste time in argu-

ment on who should be dependent on who? Therefore the NFF has not yet been transformed into a united center for all the collective members.

It is necessary to mention the following in order to clarify this matter: The NFF should lead all collective members' activities. The decisions of the council should be carried out by all NFF organizations. Take, for example, collective voluntary work, which is a laudible custom of our people: Why is such work by the trade unions or the DYOA carried out separately — which is usual — such as when it is necessary to repair a road, or build a school or mosques. They should carry out this work within the framework of the NFF. Results would be much better.

Work harmony and mutual cooperation between a collective and individual members of the NFF will enhance the role of the NFF in all spheres of life. It is necessary for all collective members of the NFF, including PDPA organizations, to take an active part in the work of the NFF councils. In view of this, the PDPA Central Committee Politburo instructs all party members, DYOA members, trade unions, and representatives of other members of the NFF to join NFF councils of residence and take an active part in their work.

I point out that the PDPA Central Committee does not control the work of the NFF Central Council and does not interfere in its affairs. The NFF, until now, was a section of our party's central apparatus. The party decided to end this directorship, and this should be considered a basic principle of the NFF.

It is worth mentioning that the PDPA will utilize all its efforts to enhance the credibility of the NFF in the capital and in the localities. Firm steps have been taken in this direction. Relations between the PDPA and the NFF should be like a fraternal unity between a political party and a political social organization, acting on the basis of joint efforts toward achieving peace in the country, ensuring the blossoming of Afghan society, and proving the independent, nonaligned, and neutral stands of democratic Afghanistan.

There is no doubt that by expanding NFF authority, a situation and possibilities will be created to enhance its role and to gather elements of neutral and opposition political groups around it. This will help political unity in the country.

NFF activities include mass political and training work among the people with a patriotic and internationalist spirit, work in consolidating fraternal Afghan-Soviet friendship, work in mobilizing the people in the struggle against the enemies of the revolution, and work in building a new society. Solving this issue should be the basis of the work of the NFF councils.

For instance, vital issues will be created among the refugees who want to return home. I want to point out once again that the organization of their living conditions, the education and training of their children, and their return back to their work will be provided for them free of charge.

The issue of a place to live will be dealt with separately in each case. It might be necessary to consider building new homes on land around Kabul or the other great cities. The issues of road construction, power lines, and water will be solved. Schools and hospitals should be built there.

We support the NFF proposal on the creation of a special assistance fund for the refugees. This humanitarian idea has conformity with the laudible traditions of our noble people.

Concerning the DRA Revolutionary Council statement on national reconciliation in Afghanistan, I should say that most returnees ask questions on such subjects as the postponement of military service, service in the reserve, the pardoning of army officers who deserted, taxes, prisoners, the loans made by the agriculture bank, and other matters.

I can reply with the following: An offer of at least 6 months' postponement to those youths eligible for military service who return home, and also for those persons who are in the reserve [applause]; a pardon for Sarandoy [Soviet-trained militia] officers and soldiers who left the country during their period of service; [applause] cancellation of tax debts for land, and trademens', artisans', and businessmen's income; for vehicle taxes and fines, and for rent debts of state shops which have not been paid; [applause] and also noncollection of land tax for a year after returning home; free assistance to those who return; and cancellation of all loan debts for chemical fertilizer, seeds, and agricultural machinery which had not been paid by those who return; [applause] provision of education and training for students and university students; allowing civil service employees, teachers, and doctors to return to their duties with consideration of the rank they held before leaving their duties; [applause] repayment of pensions to those pensioners who left the country, valid from the date of their return home. [applause]

The above subjects will obtain legal status by separate decrees, laws, and regulations of the Revolutionary Council Presidium and the government.

There are some questions concerning prisoners. The draft by Revolutionary Council decree on a general amnesty in honor of the cease-fire is now being discussed and assessed. The application of this decree will be made carefully, but as a first step the following persons, convicted of internal and external antisecurity crimes, will be released before completing the authorized term of imprisonment: [applause]

1. All those who have been convicted for 7 years imprisonment who have served 4 years or more in prison;
2. All those convicted for up to 5 years imprisonment, without consideration of the term of conviction or period being in prison;
3. All convicted women; [applause]
4. All those convicted persons who had not reached the age of 18 years at the time of perpetrating their crime, without consideration of the term of conviction or period of being in prison; [applause]
5. All convicted people who are over 60; [applause]

Those convicted of perpetrating the acts of terrorism, making explosions, and spying are not elligible for amnesty.

Prisoners not in the aforementioned categories could be pardoned on the basis of a request to the peace assemblies and extraordinary reconciliation commissions based on a guarantee

for the nonresumption of antistate activities and their support for the implementation of the national reconciliation policy. [applause]

We have been informed that the wishes of the compatriots and the participants of this congress are that their prisoners should be sent to the localities and provinces. This will be done. [applause]

Dear participants: Just a small comment. You have heard the speeches by the fraternal parties, the Hezb-e Todda-e Iran and the Sazaman-e Fedayeen-e Khalq majority. The delegation of the Awami National Party is on its way and could arrive this afternoon, and may have some views concerning Pakistan. You know about the situation in Pakistan from the mass media. These countries have been transformed into people's prisons; in Afghanistan the doors of the prisons are being opened. [applause] This is the difference between the nature of essence of our system and the systems of our neighbors. [applause]

The expression of this re-emphasizes the fact that the democratic system in Afghan society is a popular system, and people support this system and no other. [applause]

Most immigrants ask: Is there any guarantee that operations will not be carried out? I must point out that all this is related to the enemy's activities in this regard. We are always prepared to guarantee a peaceful and tranquil life for our people.

There are many other questions. This is a normal phenomenon. We urgently assess all matters which worry the people, and we will find correct answers and solutions to satisfy the people. [applause] It should be mentioned that the PDPA and the DRA, in order to maintain social justice, will center all their efforts on improving the living condition of our dear compatriots.

We will consider assistance to and respect for the rights of those who stood against us and the revolution. [applause] In connection with improving the living conditions of officers, soldiers, and employees of the Armed Forces, measures have been taken and financial concessions will be given to them. [applause]

I once again address the compatriots: We are aware of the lies and accusations being spread in the immigrant camps and among the members of the armed groups concerning our proposals and our humanitarian measures.

It is necessary to create a complete system of propaganda and publicity measures against the effect of these imperialist lies, the aim of which is to avert the restoration of peace in Afghanistan. It is important to start this work in all districts and extend it to the villages. The worthy religious, tribal, and other officials should be attracted to the work. Making the toiling people understand the aims and tasks of the PDPA should be considered a special duty. The duty of the NFF is to explain the nature and essence of the revolution and its present stage, and to explain the rights and possibilities the revolution gives to workers, peasants, tradesmen, merchants, and investors. We invite all our compatriots, all Afghans, to take the destiny of national reconciliation in their hands.

It is clear to us that most of those refugees wishing to return home are being prevented from doing so by threats and intimidation. Shameful propaganda is being spread contending that national reconciliation is a fraud. The spy networks have been instructed to arrest people in the refugee camps who talk about national reconciliation. Many people have been arrested and are in prison for this reason.

You should follow the noble example of those people who return home and who agree that revolutionary sovereignty honestly fulfills its promise in practice. If the people of Afghanistan take the process of ensuring peace into their hands they will never be confronted by an enemy. [applause]

The NFF will achieve eternal honor in the history of our country for its patriotic activities in connection with national reconciliation. [applause]

Esteemed representatives: Your congress clearly reflects the enthusiasm and high feeling of responsibility of all the patriotic forces for the destiny of their people and for the future of their country.

Allow me to welcome you each once again and wish great success for the work of the congress toward implementation of its great and noble mission. [applause]

The source of our endless successes in making our beloved homeland blossom, our noble and peace-loving people prosperous, and in bringing a long-lasting peace to our long-suffering Afghan territory is embodied in the strong unity of all national and patriotic forces.

Thank you for your attention. May God grant success.

Congress Chairman Hatef Receives Delegations

LD181155 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] Kabul, January 17, BAKHTAR: Abdorrahim Hatef, chairman of the Central Council of the National Front, NF, of the DRA, received the delegations of the USSR, National Congress of India, Syria, Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, who have come here to take part in the second cpngress of the NF of the DRA.

During the talks, Abdorrahim Hatef explained to the delegations the great historical tasks of the NF for the implementation of the policy of the national reconciliation in the country.

Heads of the delegation in the course of their talks expressed full solidarity of their organizations and their fronts with the NF of the DRA for the implementation of its supreme objectives towards building of a new society in Afghanistan.

Congress Ends; Changes Name to 'National Front'

LD181153 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0512 GMT 16 Jan 87

[Text] Kabul, January 15, BAKHTAR: The second congress of National Front of the DRA was concluded here today.

The congress adopted historical decisions for the expansion and consolidation of the social basis of National Front, realisation of the policy of national reconciliation for ensuring peace and security, and cessation of bloodshed in the country. Najib, general secretary of the PDPA CC, delivered a comprehensive speech at the congress.

Representatives of the social organisations of Egypt, Nicaragua, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Korea, Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organisation, a representative of Feda'iyan-e Khalq of Iran, majority and secretary general of the National Congress of India delivered speeches at the congress.

They expressed their all-sided solidarity of their organisations to the National Frort. The congress changed the name of the National Fatherland Front to National Front of the DRA. Similarly, 217 persons were unanimously elected as new members of the Central Council of the National Front. Abdorrahim Hatef was also re-elected as chairman of the National Front.

Mrs Nasim Wali Khan, deputy chairman of Awami National Party with the members of her delegation participated in the work of the congress and expressed the greeting messages of the leadership of Awami National to the 2nd congress of the front.

The congress has released four messages addressed to Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar, secretary general of the United Nations Organisation, to the people of Afghanistan, to the Afghans living abroad, and to the peoples of the region.

Najibullah Holds News Conference 18 Jan

LD182242 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1630 GMT 18 Jan 87

["Full proceedings" of news conference for foreign journalists by PDPA Central Committee General Secretary Najib held 18 January at Kabul's Storey Palace; unidentified moderators read questions from foreign journalists; identification of journalists provided where possible — recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Unidentified journalist in English, fading to superimposed Dari translation] Thank you. I have two questions: You have been reported in the past to speak of ending factions and divisions within the PDPA. How far have you succeeded in that? My second question is that there has been a lot of speculation about the deployment of Soviet forces in Kabul on Thursday night [15 January]. Could you give your (?reply) as to what this really was?

[Najib] Concerning the first part of your question: Differences of opinion exist in various parties in the world. The existence of differences in position is possible, and this process could proceed even to the creation of a faction. This event occurs not only in progressive, leftist, and democratic parties, but happens several times more in bourgeois parties. However, we assure you that now the process of unity of the PDPA is being consolidated from day to day. The question of unity, not only inside the party, but with other leftist and democratic parties too, is being solved effectively, resolutely, and fruitfully.

In connection with the second part of your question, we have announced a cease-fire, not the cessation of all military activities and measures, and the performance of military tasks. Out units and companies could change their bases; they could engage in patrol duties and could play an active part in transporting goods to the people of Afghanistan and in transporting foodstuffs from one locality to another and from one province to another. This is one side of the matter. The other side is that we announced a cease-fire on 15 January. On the basis of substantial information that has now been finalized, a number of parties had ordered their armed groups in the country to disrupt the peaceful and secure situation on that day in various regions and localities.

Something else should be brought to your attention. The Revolutionary Council's announcement that members and group leaders of the opposing armed groups could come to the cities provided they were not armed was incorrectly understood by some. We have information that in some provinces these groups were coming to the cities; however, some of them were armed. In order to prevent such incidents — in which provocationist groups were to use the Revolutionary Council announcement to enter the cities and organize measures — we were completely ready to disarm them. In this way the DRA, to successfully implement the cease-fire and policy of national reconciliation, not only continues its political vigilance, but keeps it at its highest level. Our measures on that day were due to this conscious fact and our combat readiness.

[Question by the *U.S. News and World Report* correspondent;] What is your view about the decisions in connection with the non-acceptance of the cease-fire and the creation of a so-called government in exile, and also the rebels' call to continue the armed struggle?

[Najib] It should be said regrettably that it has been a narrow-minded stand, emanating from the lack of care for the people of Afghanistan, emanating from the lack of self-confidence and from a lack of confidence in the people of Afghanistan. The most important thing is that the people of Afghanistan want peace. Under the present circumstances putting an end to fratricide has become the fundamental and first demand of the people of Afghanistan. We know these gentlemen deal frivolously with this vital question. However, this extent of absolute ludicrousness and disrespect for the people of Afghanistan and their demands is a matter of surprise for all; it has earned the unlimited hatred of the people of Afghanistan.

However, this irresponsible stand will not affect our announced policy. We will firmly pursue the policy of the PDPA Central Committee, the policy of the Supreme Council of National Reconciliation, and the second congress of the National Fatherland Front. What we have said we shall carry out. However, it should be categorically stated: Could a few groups, which on the basis of (?information) by Western mass media are notorious for their disunity, represent all the opposing groups and political organizations? No. On the other hand, the way the question of unanimity of view of the majority was presented in their first meeting is indicative of serious differences in connection with this matter. Also, they cannot represent all those who, within the ranks of these counterrevolutionary organizations, are tired of war, who have realized the futility of war and who desire peace.

Furthermore they cannot represent the absolute majority of the refugees. At this very moment the broad masses of refugees have come out with serious criticism regarding such a state of affairs. And so forth and so on. Also, they cannot represent the broad armed groups inside the country who are thirsting for peace.

Earlier I stated that every day, without interruption, one or two armed groups in large numbers welcome the policy of national reconciliation and national accord in the DRA, and join the DRA. Such is the reality of events inside our country, inside the camps and with the refugees, and in the ranks of those ludicrous counterrevolutionary elements.

With the correct realization of these realities, the practical, constructive, and creative slogan of national reconciliation was begun. With these reserves of forces and on these bases we shall stride forward, and we will achieve it.

A part of the irresponsible stand of the so-called seven parties residing in Pakistan is very ludicrous too. In their statement they talked about free elections, the drafting of a constitution, and the creation of a parliament. As far as we know, such elections, the creation of a parliament, and the drafting of a constitution, is the task of states — states which have land, capital, and a recognized official flag. They are officially recognized in the credible international forums. You know very well that they lack these conditions. These claims could not be anything else but propaganda without substance. Wait for the development of events. [passage omitted]

AFP Cites Mujahidin on 'Interim Government'

BK170526 Hong Kong AFP in English 0520 GMT 17 Jan 87

[By Dimitri Kochko]

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Jan 17 (AFP) — Leaders of the seven main Afghan resistance groups, in a new show of unity, called here Saturday for a continuation of the armed struggle and creation of a rebel "interim government." Rejecting as a "trick" and "another plot" the Soviet-backed Kabul regime's current truce and offer to integrate the rebels into a "coalition government," they said in a statement issued here that "the proposal of a ceasefire with Russian forces could only be discussed when they vacated our country unconditionally."

Soviet troops entered Afghanistan in December 1979, and there are an estmated 120,000 there now. The Afghan leader in Kabul, Najibullah, said earlier in the week that the Soviet Union had now agreed to withdraw all its forces from his country, but that this "depended directly on measures taken by the adverse party."

Kabul's offer and alleged new policy of national reconciliation has already been rejected by the Afghan rebels, but not as clearly and completely as was done here at this first meeting of all seven main Afghan guerrilla groups.

The government forces began a six month, unilateral ceasefire earlier this week.

One of the rebel leaders told *Agence France-Presse* that a final decision to set up a government-in-exile had not yet been made, but that preparations — due to start February 1 — for setting up an interim government appeared to be leading in that direction.

The leader, Ahmad Gailani of the Islamic Front, stressed that alliance was the operative term and that decisions by the rebel chiefs from now on would be made by a majority instead of consensus. At the meeting, the guerrilla chiefs published a statement detailing "the mujahidin alliance" response to Kabul and Moscow's proposed truce and coalition government: "While we want a total unconditional and immediate pull-out of the Russian forces," they said, "we believe we have no other alternative for the liberation of our country and the establishment of an Islamic order than continuation of our struggle."

The leaders had agreed "that a commission be set up to draft the laws" of "an interim government" and its duties. The panel was to start work as of February 1 and present proposals within one month to the alliance leadership. The statement said: "Under the supervision of the interim government, general free and fair elections" would be held and a "parliament would be established." A constitution would then be drafted to "guarantee the implementation of Islam in all walks of...life." Rebel leaders had also decided on "the formation of judicial delegations which would be responsible for arbitrating between individuals and armed groups of mujahidin, (and) ironing out their differences," they said.

Calling the Kabul government's offers "empty overtures," the guerrilla chiefs asked: "How can we lay down our arms, stop the fighting, and settle for a coalition government?" They cautioned that individuals who "accept this deceptive cease-fire of Najib and his so-called national reconciliation offer" and are "fooled by this trick, (into) joining the puppet regime" would be considered "infiltrated KGB" agents.

'Fierce Clashes' Reported Despite Cease-Fire

BK161535 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Jan 87

[Text] There have been fierce clashes between Soviet-Kabul troops and Afghan mujahidin in various parts of Afghanistan, while the Kabul regime claims that a cease-fire has come into effect from 15 January. According to reports, the fighting is still raging and the Soviet-Kabul forces are strafing and shelling mujahidin positions in Konarha, Nangarhar, Paktia, Paktika, Ghazni, Zabol, and Qandahar Provinces.

On the 1st day of the so-called cease-fire yesterday, three Soviet-Kabul soldiers were killed and several others injured in a bloody encounter near Jalalabad. The mujahidin are said to have killed eight Soviet-Kabul soldiers, including two officers, in an earlier encounter near a military headquarters in Darvishan subdivision. In an attack on Khairkot cantonment also, the mujahidin killed eight Soviet-Kabul soldiers, including three officers.

KYODO Reports Further Incidents

OW160239 Tokyo KYODO in English 0225 GMT 16 Jan 87

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 16, KYODO — Guerrillas killed at least 30 Afghan Government troops in Paktia and Nangarhar Provinces of eastern Afghanistan on Thursday, the first day of a unilateral ceasefire declared by the Kabul government, according to the rebel news agency *Afghan Islamic Press* (AIP). It said the guerrillas carried out seven operations within hours of the ceasefire coming into effect at midnight Wednesday. The report said the mujahidin guerrillas attacked Agam, Kazhah, and Sorkh Rud military posts in Nangarhar using 107 mm rockets and heavy weapons.

In Paktia Province, the mujahidin attacked two Afghan brigade headquarters at Biankhel, near 'Ali Kheyl, and Naray killing at least 16 Afghan troops, AIP claimed. Fighting in the two areas continued until Thursday afternoon.

AIP said mujahidin also rocketed an Afghan military convoy in the Terkham area barely 10 kilometers from the Pakistan border, destroying one vehicle and killing three Afghan soldiers.

Mujahidin Hideouts Bombed

BK200234 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] According to reports, mujahidin hideouts in Nangarhar and Paktia Provinces were bombarded on last Friday [16 January], nearly 24 hours after the so-called cease-fire in Afghanistan. The mujahidin, on the same day, damaged a tank and killed its crew in north of Spin Buldak in Qandahar Province.

Barter Trade Protocol Signed With USSR

BK180751 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0700 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] Bangladesh and the Soviet Union have signed a 47 million pound sterling barter protocol between the two countries for the current year. Former [as heard] secretary A.B.M. Golam Mustafa and the Soviet ambassador to Bangladesh, Mr V.G. Belyayev, signed the protocol on behalf of their governments in Dhaka today.

Under the protocol Bangladesh will export jute cloth, jute bags, raw jute, goat skin, finished leather, tea, and readymade garments. On the other hand Bangladesh will import diesel oil, cotton, zinc ingots, steel rods, cement, tractors, machinery and spares from the Soviet Union.

Official sources in Dhaka said the annual volume of trade between the two countries is ever increasing. The current protocol provides for substantial increase of Bangladesh exports to the Soviet Union. The barter protocol was signed following talks between the visiting Soviet trade delegation and the Bangladesh Government officials held in the capital.

Ershad Returns From Visit to Indonesia

BK170858 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0800 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] President Ershad returned home this afternoon ending a 4-day state visit to Indonesia. The president is accompanied by Begum Raushan Ershad and 35-member entourage. During the visit President Ershad held fruitful discussions with President Suharto on ways of increasing cooperation with Jakarta and enhancing relationship within the two Muslim countries. Their talks also covered issues of common concern on regional and international matters. The president also attended a state banquet given in his honor by President Suharto.

President Ershad also paid a short visit to Bandung on way to the island resort of Bali and saw the state-owned Nusantara Aircraft Industry. On the last leg of his visit President Ershad offered Juma [Friday] prayers at the Jama Mosque in Bali. He visited some [words indistinct] and heritage of Indonesia.

Foreign Minister Returns From SAARC Meeting

BK171634 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] The foreign minister returned to Dhaka today after attending the launching of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] Secretariat at Katmandu. Mr Humayun Rashid Chowdhury was among the foreign ministers of the seven SAARC countries who gathered in Katmandu yesterday for opening the SAARC Secretariat. Talking to newsmen in Dhaka, he said the SAARC foreign ministers would meet in India in June to review the progress of the SAARC activities.

Mr Chowdhury also had talks with the foreign ministers of India and Nepal. There was in-depth discussion on the augmentation of the Ganges water, as well as the possibility of Nepal helping Bangladesh in the process came up.

Mr Humayun Rashid Chowdhury also discussed with Mr Tiwari the question of handing over Tin Bigha corridor to Bangladesh.

Act Amended to Give Smugglers Death Penalty

BK190616 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Text] The Council of Ministers has decided to amend certain provisions of the Special Powers Act of 1974 to introduce death penalty as the maximum punishment for smuggling. The decision was taken at a meeting in Banga Bhavan [Presidency] yesterday with President Ershad in the chair. The minimum punishment for smuggling will be 2 year's rigorous imprisonment. Selling or possessing of smuggled goods will be considered as offense. The offenders will be liable for jail sentence from 1 to 7 years.

The meeting also resolved that all the remaining abandoned commercial concerns will be disposed of by auction to the highest bidders through the district management board. In case the buyer defaulted in paying scheduled installment, such concerns will also be taken over by the government and be sold off in the same manner. There were 745 abandoned commercial concerns, of which 417 have so far been sold off. The remaining concerns will be disposed of following yesterday's cabinet decision.

Karachi Previews Visit by Soviet Official
BK170830 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu
0500 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Commentary by Abdus Samad Khan]

[Text] USSR First Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Kovalev is arriving on an official visit to Pakistan today. The Afghanistan problem will be at the top of the agenda of talks with Foreign Office officials during his stay in Islamabad.

This visit of Antoliy Kovalev is linked to the recent visit of the Pakistani foreign secretary, Abdus Sattar, to Moscow and his talks with the Soviet foreign minister and other leaders there on various matters, including Afghanistan. The visit to Pakistan of the first deputy foreign minister of the Soviet Union takes place at a time when the Soviet Union has made some new gestures for a political settlement of the Afghanistan problem. The Soviet Union is not only a big power but it is also a neighbor of Pakistan. On that score, its importance to Pakistan is very clear and Pakistan desires improved bilateral relations in every field.

Regarding this, Pakistan has frequently reiterated at the highest-level that we have no differences with the Soviet Union except on Afghanistan. Pakistan is appreciative of Soviet assistance in settting up a steel mill and in other fields, including energy. Pakistan expects that new vistas of economic cooperation between the two neighbors will emerge.

Both the visit of Anatoliy Kovalev and the progress gradually being achieved toward a political settlement of the Afghanistan problem are pleasing; almost all elements for a comprehensive settlement of this problem have been finalized at the indirect talks in Geneva.

Now, the only matter to be determined is the time frame for the total withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan. Determining the time frame is indeed a pivotal point of the political settlement of this problem as an early withdrawal of all Soviet forces from there will occur only when an acceptable time frame has been determined.

Only with a total pullout will the Afghan refugees be able to go back to their homes with security and dignity and the nonaligned, independent, and sovereign status of Afghanistan will be restored.

Pakistan has welcomed the Soviet leader Gorbachev's gestures in this connection, but now a practical shape to the words of the Soviet Union is needed at the next round of indirect talks in Geneva. It is only possible to achieve the total pullout of Soviet troops from Afghanistan through a brief timetable. To do so, as a big power, the Soviet Union will have to display great courage. As far as Pakistan is concerned, it has never displayed stubbornness on any aspect of the Afghanistan problem but rather has adopted a principled, positive stand for finding a comprehensive political settlement of this problem which has been lauded by the whole world. From the beginning, Pakistan has kept in mind that this problem cannot be solved militarily — politically. With this spirit, Pakistan has been taking part in the Geneva indirect talks. Following these talks, the people of Afghanistan should decide what system of administration Afghanistan should have and what type of government should be established there.

Pakistan has reviewed the Kabul administration's announcement concerning an internal cease-fire keeping in mind that as soon as the situation in Afghanistan is normalized the more than 3 million Afghan refugees now present on our soil will be able to go back to their homes with dignity and security. Pakistan has given them asylum on humanitarian grounds.

With a total political settlement of the Afghanistan problem, the only differences between Pakistan and the Soviet Union will also be overcome. Both neighbors will be able to usher in a new era of bilateral relations, and cooperation in every field will increase.

The importance Pakistan gives to its relations with the Soviet Union can be seen from the fact that Pakistan has maintained its contacts with the Soviet Union by some way or other despite the Afghanistan problem, and President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has visited Moscow three times. Similarly, after coming to power, the elected government has not ignored the importance of Pakistan's relations with the Soviet Union. This is reflected in the recent visit of the Pakistani foreign secretary. Under these circumstances it is not futile to expect that the current visit of the first deputy foreign minister of the Soviet Union will help usher in a new era of understanding between the two countries.

BBC Views 'Hasty' Visit
BK170116 London BBC World Service in English
0015 GMT 17 Jan 87

[From the "Newsreel" Program]

[Text] In an unexpected move, the first Soviet deputy foreign minister, Mr Anatoliy Kovalev, is flying to Pakistan later today for talks on Afghanistan. His visit is being linked to the arrival in Pakistan on Sunday of the United States under secretary for state, Michael Armacost. George Arney reports from Peshawar.

[Begin Arney recording] There is no doubt that the visit of the Soviet first deputy foreign minister to Pakistan has been arranged in a hurry. On Thursday, a spokesman for the Pakistan Foreign Office said that a senior Soviet emissary was expected in the coming few weeks but that no date had yet been set. However, on Thursday night the Soviet ambassador to Pakistan met the President, General Ziaul Haq, ostensibly to convey Mr Gorbachev's new year greetings. Since then the first deputy foreign minister's hasty visit has been announced. Observers in Islamabad are connecting the Soviet move with the arrival of an American visitor in Islamabad on Sunday. United States Under Secretary of State Mr Michael Armacost is due in Pakistan for regular consultation. But there is little doubt that Afghanistan will be right at the top of the agenda.

The fact both the Soviet Union and the United States are sending senior officials to Islamabad at this time indicates how crucial Pakistan's response is to the peace initiative launched in Afghanistan by the Soviet and Kabul governments. Recent observations made by senior members of the U.S. Administration suggest that Washington considers the peace initiative to be little

more than propaganda. The U.S. defense secretary, Mr Caspar Weinberger, said a few days ago that the Soviet Union should pull its troops out of Afghanistan within a few weeks. The Soviet intention is presumably to try to convince Pakistan that such a record troop pullout would lead to instability and bloodshed in Afghanistan. [end recording]

Soviet 1st Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives

BK171527 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] USSR First Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Koralev arrived in Islamabad this evening on a 4-day official visit to Pakistan. Talking to newsmen at the airport he said he hopes there will be constructive and useful talks between the Soviet Union and Pakistan and they will promote bilateral relations in the spirit of good-neighborliness. The Soviet deputy foreign minister said that we want detailed, purposeful, honorable, and constructive talks.

Radio Pakistan's diplomatic representative understands that the dialogue between the Soviet Union and Pakistan beginning tomorrow will carry forward the talks which Foreign Secretary Abdus Sattar held recently in Moscow.

Meets Sattar, Foreign Minister

BK191525 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Text] Visiting Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Kovalev held formal talks with Foreign Secretary Abdus Sattar in Islamabad today. The discussions related mainly to the Afghanistan problem. The Soviet first deputy minister was assisted during the talks by the Soviet ambassador to Pakistan and other officials, while the Pakistan foreign secretary was assisted by high foreign office officials.

Later, Mr Anatoliy Kovalev called on Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan in Islamabad and discussed with him matters relating to the Afghanistan problem.

Conveys Gorbachev Note to Ziaul Haq

BK200209 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Kovalev called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi last evening. He delivered a message to the president from CPSU General Secretary Gorbachev. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan was also present on the occasion. Later, the Soviet first deputy foreign minister attended a dinner hosted by the president.

Views Afghan Issue With Junejo

BK201121 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] The Soviet first deputy foreign minister, Mr Anatoliy Kovalev, called on the prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, in Islamabad this morning. He informed the prime minister about his wideranging talks in Pakistan on all aspects of the Afghanistan problem as well as the prospects for the promotion of bilateral relations between the two countries.

The prime minister told him that Pakistan wants an early and peaceful solution of the Afghan problem on the basis of the principles initiated in the resolutions of the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Conference. He expressed the hope that in the forthcoming Geneva talks [words indistinct] a settlement of this issue would be found out contributing greatly to peace and security of the region, encouraging the Afghan refugees return to their homes in safety and honor.

Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo also emphasized Pakistan's desire to further promote friendly relations with the Soviet Union.

The Soviet first deputy foreign minister conveyed the good wishes of the Soviet leaders to the prime minister, which was warmly reciprocated.

U.S. Under Secretary Armacost Arrives 18 Jan

BK180235 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Mr Michael Armacost arrived in Islamabad this morning. A Radio Pakistan representative says Armacost will hold talks with the Pakistani leaders on regional and global issues besides matters of bilateral interest. You may recall that Armacost visited Pakistan twice in the past few years for talks in the background of good relations between Pakistan and the United States.

Syria's Khaddam Arrives in Karachi From PRC

BK190320 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Text] Senior Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam arrived in Karachi on his way to Damascus from China last night. He was received by Sind Governor Ashraf Wali Tabani, provincial ministers, elected representatives, and senior officials at the airport. Khaddam is to leave for Syria this morning.

Leaves Karachi for Damascus

BK190719 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0600 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam left for Damascus this morning after a night's stay in Karachi. He was seen off by Sind Governor Ashraf Tabani at the airport.

PRC Army Team Leaves After 9-Day Visit

BK191123 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Text] The six member team of China's People's Liberation Army led by the deputy chief of the General Staff, General Xu Huizi, left Karachi today for home after its 9-day goodwill visit to Pakistan.

Paper Views 'Seriousness' of Afghan Peace Plan

BK191006 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 8 Jan 87 p 4

[Editorial: "Soviet in Kabul"]

[Text] The Soviet foreign minister's trip to Kabul is the latest indicator of the seriousness of the peace initiative now being pursued by Dr Najibullah's regime. Eduard Shevardnadze said on his arrival that he had been sent to Kabul by his leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, to offer all possible assistance to the government in speeding up the peace process and to end the 7-year old conflict in the country. Though the Western powers are still insisting that it is a tactical ploy and the Soviets will never pull out its troops from Afghanistan, a series of moves made by the Soviet Union reflect new pattern of policy, which has emerged after 27th party congress in February, 1986.

Gorbachev needs peace to accomplish his ambitious plans for revitalizing Soviet society and has taken several initiatives to improve ties with countries traditionally apprehensive of Soviet designs. It has become obvious that Soviet Union wants peace in Afghanistan and is earnestly seeking an early political settlement. Dr Najibullah's announcement of a unilateral cease-fire is part of his campaign to bring about national reconciliation, a task which seems to have been assigned to him.

Since the peace initiative is the outcome of a strategic decision, the Kabul regime is willing to give concessions and will settle for a compromise. But unfortunately Western powers and various Mujahidin groups have failed to respond to this positive development. To take a hard line now will not be an indication of strength but a position under pressure, which may be interpreted as total absence of any desire to go for a peaceful solution. Even if the Western powers are not interested in a political settlement and the Mujahidin are banking on distant godfathers, Pakistan should take an independent line in consonance with its national interests. We must seize this opportunity to reciprocate Soviet gestures, and make an earnest endeavor to seek a negotiated settlement of the conflict, which is a source of tension and insecurity not only in Pakistan but for the entire region.

Khamene'i Urges Nonaligned To Condemn Iraq

LD181645 Tehran IRNA in English 1627 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 18, IRNA — Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i called on the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) to immediately condemn Iraq for its use of internationally banned chemical weapons in the war fronts, and its wide-scale bombardment of Iranian cities. President Khamene'i made the appeal in a message to the Zimbabwean premier and NAM Chairman Robert Mugabe, who was given the message by Iranian Ambassador to Harare Farhad Shahabi, Saturday.

Mugabe expressed hope that measures taken by the Iranian forces would ultimately prove successful in discouraging Iraq from future use of banned weapons.

The Baghdad government has repeatedly been condemned for deploying toxic gases, Mugabe said, noting that "I believe there is no guarantee Iraq would not again invade the Islamic Republic, if peace was established between the two governments", with Saddam Husayn and the Ba'th Party in power.

Iraqis Urged 'To Rise Up'

LD181653 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 18, IRNA — Iran's Friday prayer leaders released a statement, Sunday calling on all Muslim ulema and theological schools in the world to break their silence on the repeated Iraqi violation of all international laws, including the sacrilege against the sanctity of the holy city of Qom.

The statement reminded world Muslim ulema to act upon their religious duties and firmly confront the aggressor (Iraqi regime).

The Friday prayer leaders also lauded the valour of the Muslim forces of Iran for inflicting bitter defeats on Iraqi troops in the Karbala-5 and Karbala-6 operations.

Elsewhere in the statement, the Friday prayer leaders called on the Iraqi people to rise up against the Baghdad rulers simultaneous with the battles raging at the war fronts in order to accelerate the toppling of the Iraqi regime.

Iraqi warplanes bombarded the holy city of Qom last Thursday and Friday, which martyred 30 civilians and injured several others.

Qom which houses the shrine of Hazrat Massoumen (SA), sister of Imam Reza (AS), the eighth imam of the prophets' (SAW) household, is a center of religious sciences and pilgrimage. Muslims from all over the world come to study at its famous theological schools.

Qom Mourners Call for Revenge

LD171114 Tehran IRNA in English 1035 GMT 17 Jan 87

[7text] Qom, Jan 17, IRNA — Provisional Friday Prayers Leader of the Holy City of Qom Ayatollah Yossef Sane'i here stressed that the Muslim combatants of Iran would retaliate Iraqi crimes at the war fronts. He made the remark at a funeral ceremony Friday for 30 civilian martyrs of an Iraqi air raid on the city two days earlier. Ayatollah Sane'i officiated the ceremony on behalf of Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri. The special ceremony was attended by a large group of people chanting "Revenge, revenge". Eight children and 19 women were among the martyrs.

The mourners stressed that Iraqi air attacks on Iran's residential areas will not halt the fight by Muslim forces of Iran, who are determined to achieve victory.

Ayatollah Sane'i also said at the ceremony that the holy city of Qom was a center for the learning and teaching of sciences as well, and that Iraqi bombardment of the city was aimed, too, at the annihilation of sciences.

Iraqis Urged To Oppose 'Tyrant'

LD170903 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0800 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Unscheduled broadcast in Arabic]

[Text] O sons of the zealous Iraqi Army! O officers! O brave NCO's! O dear soldiers! The heroes of Islam are on the verge of victory, God willing! They are about to achieve victory over the blasphemous system in Baghdad in order to save the oppressed Iraqi people from the hands of Iraq's tyrant, Saddam, and his hateful 'Aflaqite [reference to Ba'th Party founder] party, in order to bring security and peace back to the land of Iraq and the region.

We call on you not to lose the opportunity and to refuse to be tools and soldiers of Satan, of that fascist system that is inimical to humanity and which wants to destroy Iraq and its sons. You are hereby called upon to force him to lose this opportunity by standing up to the tyrant and his henchmen!

The sons of Islam are coming toward you and the enemy's positions are destined for a decisive fall; your standing up to the system will hasten your salvation from it and save your children from death in the service of the tyrant of Iraq!

O sons of the Iraqi Army! The sooner you act by throwing down your weapons and joining the ranks of the Islamic soldiers, the quicker you will help to overthrow the blasphemous 'Aflaqite system. O brothers! Choose between paradise and Hell, between glory and ignominy! Let your choice be a wise one, just as it has been during the entire unjust war, in order to save your people and your families and to liberate yourselves from the shackles of darkness and the Iraqi 'Aflaqite party!

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Battle 'Successes'

LD181239 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] In an address in the open session of the Majlis, Hashemi-Rafsanjani has paid tribute to the Islamic warriors, noting their impressive successes and unparalleled victories in the Karbala-5

operational theatre. He said: Islamic combatants have currently advanced about 12 kilometers toward Basra from their initial base, along the northern bank of Shatt al 'Arab. Abu al-Khasib and the suburbs of Basra, south of Shatt al 'Arab, are within 500 meters of the Islamic combatants. Our forces are now stationed at Fish Lake, Umm al-Tuwaylah and Bawarin Islands.

He then said: In the western operational threater, too, our self-sacrificing army brothers have made great strides toward achieving their objectives, the reports of which will be announced by the media. Hashemi-Rafsanjani continued: What is of interest to our people and the world, something which ought to be noted by the unfair media and world bodies, is the difference between the attitude of our fighters and that of the Iraqi regime. As films show, our combatants capture Iraqi generals and officers in the Zionist trenches and then transfer them like mice to our sector. However, on the contrary, the Baghdad [word indistinct] drop bombs at night, like thieves, on our women, children, schools, mosques, and cities. The events of the past week alone should suffice to demonstrate to the world the nature of the Iraqi regime and the glorious nature of the Islamic Revolution throughout the war. Surely these things are quite clear to the world by now.

The Majlis speaker added: These events are the best testimony to the statement made by the Islamic Republic to the effect that the Iraqi Ba'thists must be removed from the region; they prove that it is a legitimate statement. Consequently, such a ruling, odious party, which acts in such a manner and has continued to act accordingly throughout the war, to be fair, cannot be forgiven. As for those who call on us to forgive them, one must say that this is the worst possible suggestion.

We are truly unhappy with the world media; we are critical of world bodies, particularly the UN and the Security Council; instead of telling the truth and exposing the aggressor and the violator and then pronouncing the rights of the aggrieved party, they continue, in a devious manner, to talk of peace — the sort of peace that they know full well would enable this blood-thirsty wolf to repeat his past crimes. Then we noticed how the green light shown to the Iraqis by the Soviets encouraged them to resume the war on the cities.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: Our nation has already learned its lesson; it is learning the best possible lesson right now. Our nation realizes that we have no alternative but to eliminate the ominous presence of these criminals on the fronts from the region. We are grateful to the people, for despite the fact that they are attacked by Zionist enemy planes, they nonetheless patiently support the battlefronts and the war, and continue to chant the slogan: War until victory. We are proud of being servants of such a nation. We hope to be able to fulfil our great historical duty — considering the patience, tolerance, and sacrifices that the nation and our warriors are demonstrating — and save the region from the ominous presence of these criminals.

Musavi Comments on UN Call for Cease-Fire

LD181553 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Excerpts] According to a Central News Unit report, at today's Cabinet session Culture and Higher Education Minister Farhadi delivered a report. [passage omitted] At the conclusion of the session, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi answered our correspondent's question, to which we draw your attention:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Issuing a statement, the UN Security Council has asked for an immediate end to the war and negotiations to that end. Prime Minister, would you comment on the stand adopted by the Islamic Republic of Iran Government?

[Musavi] In the name of Allah, the compassionate, the merciful. We have a general stand vis-a-vis the international bodies, which I will describe first, before touching on the specific issue. As for the international bodies whose upper hand is with the powers, we always respond with disbelief, and cannot rely on them. In general, it is an important principle in our system that we should rely on our own norms and views and not be trapped in an atmosphere created outside our country. Furthermore, we must not follow judgements made against us in the world, based on the policies of the global arrogance, and we must return to our Islamic principles. This is an important principle. Attempts have always been made on the part of suspicious international societies to foment doubt in our minds while dealing with our affairs. Those apparatuses are the Carterite human rights set up or the Reaganite form as well as those belonging to (?bases) of arrogance. [sentence as heard]

One of the proud achievements by the Islamic Republic of Iran is its reliance on Islamic interests and principles and not on judgements induced from abroad. The United Nations has always been one of those societies under the very influence of the superpowers.

An example of this is the recent affair: We have repeatedly rejected the Security Council's views because of its very unjust and unfair nature. We will also do the same in this case. Clear proof is that the Saddamist regime comes and annihilates 67 innocent children in Borujerd and not a word is said about the start of the cities war. Iraqi aircraft bomb our cities. International norms and conventions are trampled underfoot everywhere. We do not hear a word of protest from the Security Council, powers supporting Saddam, or the United Nations. They are asking for cease-fire and talks at a time when our nation's mighty hand has come out of its sleeve, putting the aggressor in its place and endangering Saddam's future. How can we sit and discuss a cease-fire with a criminal like Saddam, who has violently been trampling underfoot all international norms.

In the same vein, we reject this resolution, like all other Security Council resolutions. We vehemently reject it and suggest that the Security Council return to impartiality and justice if it wants to be influential in this connection. It must clearly condemn Iraq for its inhuman aspects — which have been observed on the Iraqi regime's part as attacks on ships, cities, and chemical attacks — and consider them an indictment for Saddam. It is then that one

can say that the Security Council has made moves and wants to act in line with fairness and justice. Under such circumstances, we have nothing to say except that we reject such plans and resolutions [as heard]. [end recording]

Besharati on Islamic Summit, Other Issues

LD171826 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Besharati this afternoon took part in a news conference to explain the outcome of his visits to Sudan. Noting the impressive victories achieved by Islamic combatants during the Karbala-5 operations and the military superiority enjoyed by Iran, he said: The visits took place in order to explain and outline the stands adopted by the Islamic Republic and point out the reason for our refusal to participate in the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] in Kuwait.

Continuing his remarks on the same topic, he added: The ICO summit should be held where the participants can have security. We have, it should be remembered, already declared to the world that Kuwait is not a suitable venue for the ICO; for Kuwaiti airspace is open to the aggressive Iraqi planes to attack our residential areas. Considering its overt support, Kuwait is in practice an ally of Iraq in the war.

During a meeting with Mr Hafiz al-Asad in Syria, the Syrian president said: We do not pin any hopes on these conferences. These types of assemblies have not only failed so far to serve any purpose, rather they have aggravated the difficulties. Besharati then said: In view of Mr al-Qadhdhafi's preoccupation with the Chad issue and the presence of Mr Jallud in Damascu, we did not visit Libya. Consequently, we met and conferred with Mr Jallud in Damascus, in the course of which bilateral ties were reviewed.

Commenting on his visit to Sudan, Besharati said: Sudan is going through phases which are similar to the first years of Iran's revolution. During our talks with the Sudanese president, prime minister, foreign minister, minister of energy, and minister of guidance we explained our stands to them. During our meeting with the president in particular, we pointed out how disgraceful it is for the leaders participating in the ICO summit to be unable to respond convincingly, on their return, to questions raised by correspondents concerning the imposed wars in Afghanistan and Lebanon. As for the president, he said: We were quite unaware of many of these issues. Now, however, we must think about such stands and then respond.

The Foreign Ministry under secretary also said: Today, when we enjoy a powerful position, both militarily and politically, we, as before, extend our hands of friendship toward Arab countries and to our neighbors in the region. We assure them of the Islamic Republic's support. We wish to live in peace and friendship with all our neighbors.

Continuing his remarks, Besharati added: As Iran has demonstrated by sending the highest delegation to the nonaligned conference, once its venue in Iraq was changed, similarly, if the Kuwait venue is changed to any other Islamic country which does not support Saddam, the Islamic Republic of Iran will participate in it at the highest level and will convey its views to the rest of the world.

Dealing with a foreign radio report on Iran's financial assistance and oil supplies to Sudan, Besharati said: We have no [words indistinct]. As for military and political issues, considering our brave combatants, we are very powerful. It is because of this fact that we are extending our hand of friendship toward Arab countries in the region, telling them to rest assured of the Islamic Republic's support.

Concluding his remarks, he explained the agenda of the ICO in Kuwait and then cited the subsequent plots resulting from the conference, adding: Egypt's return to the Arab fold and the gradual compromise with Israel are among the dangerous plots of the conference. The holding of an Arab summit in conjunction with the ICO is yet another plot perpetrated by global arrogance.

ICO Summit in Kuwait 'Illogical'

LD171846 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] Qom, Jan 17, IRNA — Head of Iran's Assembly of Experts Ayatollah 'Ali Meshkini said here Friday that the holding of the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) summit in Kuwait would be "illogical", thus nullifying and voiding whatever decision and ratifications it might adopt.

Speaking to a gathering of people from all walks of life, the ayatollah said that the holding of the summit in a country like Kuwait is unlawful. Kuwait has obviously put all its facilities at the disposal of the Baghdad regime, since the beginning of the Iraqi imposed war, he added. The Iranian nation will not respect decisions ratified by the likes of such persons as Husni Mubarak, Hasan of Morocco, and Jordan's Husayn, said the ayatollah.

Ayatollah Meshkini further said that hostility of leaders of some Muslim countries with Islam makes them ineligible to decide on Islamic world issues and the liberation of the holy Qods.

The ayatollah also congratulated Muslim combatants on their victories in Karbala-5 and -6 operations, pointing out the Iranian nation owes its victories against the armed to-the-teeth enemy to its ardent faith and their presence on the scene.

CSSR's Urban Departs, Trade Details Reported

LD161305 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 16 Jan 87

[Text] CSSR Minister of Foreign Trade Bohumil Urban, who was visiting Tehran at the head of a delegation, left Tehran this morning and was officially seen off at the airport by our minister of industries.

On the outcome of the Czech economic delegation's trip to our country, Minister Shafe'i said: We had discussions with that delegation in two industry and commerce committees, and in both discussions we reached some understanding. The total

volume of exchanges by both sides has been foreseen at $300 million. We shall export $150 million worth of goods to Czechoslovakia, and they will export $150 million worth of goods to us. In the case of non-oil items, which during the past year constituted 20 percent of all our exports to Czechoslovakia, this year 30 percent has been foreseen. This is the first time that we have arrived at such an understanding with the East bloc countries.

The minister of industries added: In the production of rubber, textiles, continued cooperation in cement and pulp production, as well as cooperation in the construction of rock crushers, we reached understanding. Also, in view of the fact that we import washed kaolin, we intend to build a large kaolin washing factory in the south of Marand, which has one of the best kaolin mines. We reached agreement wiht the Czech side on this issue, too.

In the field of heavy industries we reached an agreement for the construction of machine-tool making machinery and 500 (?mm) steel rollers for the steel mill, as Czechoslovakia cooperates with our steel mill through the Soviet Union. It was agreed that a Czech team of experts should come to Iran to eliminate some of the existing difficulties.

In the field of industrial goods, it was decided that if the Ministry of Heavy Industries could purchase about $120 million worth of goods from the CSSR, then they would purchase about $30 million worth of industrial goods from our country. We should try to make sure that industrial goods would also find their own rightful place alongside our traditional goods and minerals.

Regarding the Ministry of Energy it was agreed that we should have some cooperation in the construction of hydroelectric and low power steam generators. In the field of agriculture we reached certain understandings in the exchange of agricultural machinery.

In addition to this general protocol, another accord was signed, according to which from this date a joint commission will be formed. From now on the two countries' sessions will continue their work within the framework of the joint commission.

In a short interview with our correspondent, Mr Urban said: The outcome of this visit was most positive, and in all the meetings we had with Iranian officials we were faced with an atmosphere of understanding and cooperation. In all the meetings the need to increase bilateral cooperation was emphasized. We are pleased with the protocol that was signed, and we will make every effort to implement it.

Abedi-Ja'fari Leaves for Indonesia, Malaysia

LD171845 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 17, IRNA — Commerce Minister Hasan Abedi Ja'fari heading a delegation left here for Jakarta Saturday on the first leg of his week-long visit to Indonesia and Malaysia. Before his departure Ja'fari said that his visit aims to expand and strengthen Iran's economic, trade, and cultural relations with these two countries. The importance Iran attaches to its relations with Muslim and Third World countries is reflected in the first-time ever a minister has led a delegation to the aforesaid countries.

The minister said that Iran is interested in purchasing tin, caoutchouc, wood, chemical fertilizer, tea, and chemical materials from these two Muslim countries. Iran is also ready to export oil, fresh and dried fruits, dates, carpets, handicrafts, and certain industrial products to Indonesia and Malaysia, he added.

Foreign Correspondents Invited to War Fronts

LD170919 Tehran IRNA in English 0758 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 17, IRNA — The War Information Headquarters (WIH) Saturday invited foreign reporters from throughout the world to travel to Iran and file reports on recent victories of Muslim combatants of Iran in Karbala-5 operational region.

In a statement released here Saturday, the WIH said that all foreign media representatives, especially those from Muslim countries, are invited to travel to Iran and inspect recent victories of the Muslim combatants in southern fronts.

Foreign reporters wishing to travel to Iran are requested to refer to Iranian Embassies abroad for entry visas.

Further on Combat Operations, Karbala-5,-6

Bawarin Island Completely Controlled

LD170808 Tehran IRNA in English 0800 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala-5 Operational Region, Jan 17, IRNA — The Muslim combatants of Iran have taken complete control of the strategic Iraqi island of Bawarin, said the latest reports from the area. The Iranian forces in continuation of their Karbala-5 operation, Friday night captured the remaining part of the Bawarin Island and are now fully in control of the island.

In this operation, several supply bases, munition depots, large amounts of weaponry and armaments were seized by the Muslim forces of Iran. The Iraqi Brigade 439, which after reorganisation was dispatched to the region, was totally smashed. A large number of Iraqi officers and commanders of the Iraqi brigades in the island were captured.

Brigadier General Amir Ahmad Husayn, commander of Infantry Brigade 506; Colonel Mohammad Reza Ja'far Jasha'mi, commander of the Commando Brigade of the Seventh Corps; Colonel Majid Shandough Jasim, deputy commander of the Artillery Battalion 20 of the Third Armoured Corps; Major Jamal Jabbar Ali, deputy commander of 122 mm Artillery Battalion 16; Lieutenant Ali 'Abd al-Sattar Ibrahim, deputy commander of Commando Battalion Four; and Lieutenant Yahya Jome' Jabir, deputy commander of the 115 and 130 mm Artillery Battalion, are among those captured.

'Blitz' To Stabilize Island Positions

LD170837 Tehran IRNA in English 0832 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala-5 Operational Region, Jan 17, IRNA — An Iranian commander said that the Friday blitz of Muslim combatants of Iran on Iraqi forces in Shalamcheh area was aimed at destroying enemy troops, achieving new objectives, and stabilising positions in the strategic Bawarin Island.

He said that the lightning attack harassed Iraqi commanders to the extent that the Iraqi Army was forced to re-dispatch its battered units to the region, most of which were smashed.

He said that the amount of munitions seized from Iraqi forces was very large which needed two days to be counted.

Tehran on Bawarin Island 'Successes'

LD170920 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0818 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Martyr-nurturing nation, families of dear martyrs! I am speaking to you now from the front line of light against darkness. In continuation of the Karbala-5 offensive, the combatants of Islam have scored new successes. With their crushing blows the combatants of Islam have killed, wounded, or taken prisoner a large number of troops of the defeated Iraqi Army. Right now we are watching the evacuation of a number of Iraqi POW's who are being taken behind the lines shouting the slogan: "Death to Saddam".

The duped Iraqi forces have fled behind the lines, leaving behind all their equipment and hardware. In all cases they have left behind their engineering equipment and (?survival kits) before fleeing. The events at Bawarin Island are the most important of the war for the Iraqi forces. The duped Iraqi forces, fully encircled on three sides [as heard] by the combatants of Islam, threw themselves into the water in large numbers. Some of them were drowned and some managed to escape behind the front line. The combatants of Islam, with excellent morale, are now pursuing the enemy and clearing the area. The sound of machine gun fire does not cease even for a minute. With their light and heavy fire the combatants of Islam are not allowing the defeated Iraqi forces any opportunity for action.

Young theological students, correspondents, and cameramen working shoulder-to-shoulder with the combatants of Islam in the trenches, are recording the monumental epic-making activities of the Army of Islam. A large number of enemy vehicles and a substantial amount of enemy equipment have been destroyed. Many of the infidel Ba'thists have been sent to Hell. Their bodies are lying on the battlefield. Many of the enemy tanks captured are being used against the Iraqi forces by the combatants of Islam. The machine gun barrage of the Army of Islam is making life difficult for the Ba'thist-Zionist enemy.

Selfless and generous nation! The battle is still in progress in the Karbala-5 operational theater.

Iraqi Claims of F-4 Crash 'Lies'

LD170832 Tehran IRNA in English 0828 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 17, IRNA — The War Information Headquarters (WIH) spokesman here Saturday categorically denied Iraqi claims that an Iranian F-4 fighter crashed in southern operational region on Friday. The WIH spokesman added that as a high-ranking Iranian Air Force official announced Friday, all Iranian fighters after a week of sorties against enemy positions all returned safely to bases.

The WIH spokesman referred to the Iraqi regime's claim as a "mere lie," and added that all the Iranian pilots Friday after carrying out their successful missions on Friday returned safely to bases. [sentence as received]

Iraqi Command Center Taken Over

LD170845 Tehran IRNA in English 0833 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] Khatem ol-Anbiya' Hq., Jan 17, IRNA — Muslim forces of Iran took over the joint headquarters of three Iraqi brigades in north of Sulayman Shal River, Shalamcheh operational area, Saturday morning. The Muslim combatants in the continuation of their advance in east of Basra, encircled Iraqi forces in north of Sulayman Shal River, capturing their joint headquarters and personnel.

The headquarters was the joint command center of the Commando Brigade of the Seventh Corps, special forces of Infantry Brigade 28 of the Eighth Corps, and Infantry Brigade 94 of the Third Corps. Operations of units under the command of these brigades were commanded by the headquarters. Eighty percent of the three brigades were destroyed during the assault Friday night and Saturday morning.

Tehran on 'Surprise Assault'

LD170952 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0927 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Thanks to the heroic advance of the monotheistic troops east of Basra, dozens of enemy supply posts, ammunition dumps, and countless weapons, ammunition, and equipment have fallen intact into the hands of Islam's combatants. Also several enemy ammunition dumps became the target of fire by Islam's combatants and were destroyed, so that the flames and pall of smoke resulting from their explosion enveloped the operational arena.

The surprise assault by Islamic forces during last night's operations, which resulted in the occupation of command headquarters deep inside enemy positions and the capture of booty and equipment are indicative of the power and courage of our selfless combatants who, relying on the eternal divine power and the blessing of the imam and our God-seeking Islamic nation, are crushing the cowardly enemy.

Forces Cross Rivers; Take Iraqi Post
LD170910 Tehran IRNA in English 0844 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala-5 Operational Region, Jan 17, IRNA — The Muslim forces of Iran Saturday morning crossed over the Iraqi rivers of Du'ayji and Hisyan, 10 km east of the Iraqi port city of Basra.

A large number of Iraqi troops were killed and tens of tanks and personnel carriers destroyed in fierce fighting with the Muslim combatants of Iran.

The Muslim forces of Iran in an overnight fighting took over the Iraqi watch post of Khayyen, capturing a number of enemy forces including a number of officers and NCO's.

Iraqi 47th Brigade Command Captured
LD170957 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0948 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, here is some important news. The combatants of Islam, continuing their advance deep into the enemy positions east of Basra, have smashed through the fortified defensive lines around the headquarters of the 47th Infantry Brigade of the 11th Division and succeeded in capturing the brigade headquarters. With the capture of this headquarters dozens of tanks, personnel carriers, vehicles, and heavy and light weapons have been captured intact by the combatants of Islam. This is the 10th enemy brigade headquarters to come under the control of our forces in the heavy and victorious battles of the combatants of the army of monotheism. This shows the disintegration of the Iraqi Army organization in this region.

101st Brigade Headquarters Captured
LD171025 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0957 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] O heroic Iranian Islamic nation, please pay attention.

We have just received a report from the Karbala-5 war theater that Islam's combatants are continuing their advance and are dealing heavy blows at the Ba'thist enemy. According to the latest report received, the headquarters of the 101st Brigade of the Iraqi 30th Division has been occupied by Islam's combatants.

AFP: 'Powerful Explosion' in Tehran
NC170945 Paris AFP in English 0941 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 17 (AFP) — A powerful explosion was heard in the Iranian capital around 12:30 a.m. [abbreviation as received] (0900 GMT) on Saturday, setting off a violent burst of artillery and anti-aircraft battery fire. A maximum alert was declared at the same time but only lasted five minutes.

It could be the first Iraqi attack on Tehran since the latest Iranian offensives were launched on the southern and central front. No official comment was immediately available.

Three Killed in Tehran Air Raid
LD171123 Tehran IRNA in English 1119 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 17, IRNA — An Iraqi warplane penetrated the airspace of Tehran and bombed a residential area at 12:25 hours (08:55 GMT) Saturday. Early reports said that three civilians including one 55-year-old man and two four-year-old children were martyred in the Iraqi war raid. There was no immediate report on the number of wounded.

Father of the two martyred children is now fighting Iraqi troops at the war fronts.

Iraqi Plane Bombs Tehran Outskirts
LD171102 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] An aircraft of the Zionist Iraqi regime today penetrated the Tehran airspace and bombed a residential area on the outskirts of Tehran. According to reports received, in the course of this attack, which took place at 1225, three persons were martyred and several persons were injured. According to the Central News Unit, at 1203 today, three places in the Kuhdasht region of Lorestan were bombed by the Zionist Iraqi regime.

Also, at 1205 today, the city of Ilam was hit by three air-to-ground missiles of the Zionist Iraqi regime.

14 Killed, 'At Least' 100 Wounded
LD171145 Tehran IRNA in English 1142 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] Khorramabad, Lorestan, Jan 17, IRNA — Fourteen civilians were martyred and at least 100 others wounded when Iraqi warplanes bombed four residential areas in Kuhdasht in this western province at 12:00 hours (08:30 GMT) Saturday. Some houses were also destroyed or damaged in the savage Iraqi air raid on the city.

'Liberated Land' Totals 150 Sq KM
LD171033 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala-5 Operational Region, Jan 17, IRNA — Muslim combatants of Iran, in the continuation of their ongoing victorious Karbala-5 operation, captured 10 Iraqi villages and outposts in west of Shalamcheh, Friday night.

The Iranian forces attacked the hearts of Iraqi positions to continue their advance west of Shalamcheh, where the said areas [were] liberated. The abandoned villages were used for military purposes. Hundreds of Iraqi forces were killed or wounded and heavy damage inflicted on them.

This brings to 150 square kilometers of the amount of land liberated since the launching of the Karbala-5 operations.

Iraqi Positions Hit; Plane Downed
LD171109 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] According to a Khatem ol-Anbiya' report the fighter bombers of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran at 0911 and 1006 this morning bombed the deployment of points of the forces of the Zionist enemy and their positions in the Karbala-5 operational theatre and after these successful raids returned safely to base. With the downing of another Iraqi aircraft the number of downed aircraft of the Zionist enemy since the beginning of Karbala-5 offensive has reached 45. [Tehran IRNA in English at 1057 GMT on 17 January adds the following: "The fighters returned safely to bases after the bombing missions"]

Iraqi Units Clash Amid Confusion
LD171104 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1013 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention to a report which we have just received! According to a report from our correspondents on the forward area east of Basra, the lightning advance and continuous and deadly assaults launched by Islam's forces east of Basra and the destruction of enemy forces culminating in the occupation of 11 enemy command headquarters in the area are indicative of the depth of the disruption of the Iraqi Army in confronting the Islamic forces.

In view of the fact that another part of enemy forces is being subjected to heavy pressure by our combatants and that others of their units are being encircled by Islam's combatants, utter confusion and mounting fear is engulfing enemy forces so much so that this state of affairs has often resulted in clashes among the Iraqi forces themselves. And, despite repeated threats by higher Iraqi commanders on their intention to execute deserters and their continuous pressures to keep their units in the area, desertions by enemy troops from the area are quite obvious, and with the destruction of enemy tanks and APC's, thanks to fire by the intrepid men of the counterarmor units of the monotheistic corps, the crew of other tanks and APC's on the front are leaving their vehicles with panic and are fleeing. At present our forces' heavy battle with enemy forces is continuing with total supremacy of our Islamic combatants and our forces, by opening heavy fire, are smashing enemy concentration points!

Iraq Bombs Ilam Residential Areas
LD171138 Tehran IRNA in English 1136 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] Ilam, Jan 17, IRNA — Residential areas here were [the] target of an Iraqi missile attack at noon Saturday. Three civilians were martyred and three others injured and several residential units damaged in the attack.

Iraqi Captives Detail Casualties
LD171057 Tehran IRNA in English 1003 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Spelling of names as received]

[Text] Karbala-5 Operational Region, Jan 17, IRNA — Iraqi commanders captured Thursday night and Friday morning in this operational region all speak of heavy casualties inflicted on the Iraqi forces. They say that accurate artillery fire and relentless fight of Muslim combatants of Iran are the main factors why they have been winning victory after victory in the past week.

A number of Iraqi officers who were transferred behind the fronts, spoke of the unstable conditions of the Iraqi Army.

First Lieutenant Khazir Abdollah Hemadi of artillery battalion of 115th Division of the Fourth Corps, captured Thursday night, said that the battalion had been besieged by Iranian forces for 48 hours. Iraqi commanders, he added, only spoke of sending reinforcements but never acted.

The Iraqi POW who became commander of the battalion after the former commander, Lieutenant Mahidi Abu-Mohsen was wounded, said that seven out of 45 personnel of the battalion were killed and the rest captured.

Another Iraqi POW, First Lieutenant Johmour Mahmoud, commander of headquarters of 1st Battalion of Infantry Brigade 101 stationed in southwest of the Fish Lake, told IRNA that all personnel of the battalion were killed or injured and the headquarters was taken over by the Muslim forces of Iran.

First Lieutenant Tahsin Abdolsattar Abdolrazaq, deputy commander of Brigade 19 of the Seventh Army, also told IRNA that most of the 1,800 personnel of the brigade were killed or injured and the rest were captured. A number of officers were among the dead, he said, including commander of headquarters battalion of Brigade 19, Abdollah Abbas, and two other colonels. He added that Infantry Brigades 102 and 19 of the Commando Brigade of the Seventh Corps and Armoured Brigade 37 suffered 80 percent damage and their headquarters was taken over by the Muslim forces of Iran.

Another Iraqi POW, Lieutenant Masqat Abdulghani, one of the commanders of the Third Company of Mechanized Battalion 11 of Armoured Brigade 37 of the 12th Division said that 90 percent of the 400-personnel battalion was destroyed and its commander, Colonel Hatam Saleh Ahmed Mostamhi, was wounded. He said that the Hamouravi tank battalion suffered 90 percent damage and three out of 30 tanks' unit capacity were seized by Muslim forces intact. The remaining were set ablaze.

First Lieutenant Mohammad Abdolhamd Fathollah of Armoured Brigade 38 of the 12th Division who was captured Friday told IRNA that Iranian artillery fire inflicted heavy losses on the brigade. He said that five of the personnel of the brigade were killed, 40 injured and the remaining captured.

Lieutenant Khaled Mohammad Mansour of Battalion 130 of Brigade 101 of the First Division said that his battalion was under

the siege of Iranian forces for three days. He said that firing squads behind front lines prevents Iraqi forces from retreating.

Communique No 14 Issued
LD171222 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Communique No 14 of the Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, the center of joint operations by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. There is neither strength nor might except in God, the High, the Almighty. [verse from the Koran]

O Muslim nation, O selfless and revolutionary nation, the blaphemy-smashing combatants of the monotheist army, in continuation of their epic feats, last night succeeded in achieving impressive victories for the nation of Islam in a surprise attack on several axes.

In the operations of the combatants of Islam last night, attacks were conducted on the remaining part of the Zionist enemy on Bawarin Island. By destroying units that remained on this strategic island and capturing some of them, the combatants of Islam were able to take full control of the island, to consolidate their positions there, and to transfer 70 Iraqi troops behind the front.

On another axis, the combatants of Islam crushed enemy fortifications and succeeded in crossing the Du'ayji and Hisyan Rivers 12 kilometers east of Basra, setting on fire a large quantity of enemy armored equipment. In addition to capturing a substantial number of tanks and personnel-carriers, they were able to destroy dozens of supply bases, ammunition and arms dumps, light and heavy equipment, and several air defense guns and mortars.

The combatants of Islam, completing the encirclement of the enemy in the region to the north of the Sulayman Shal River situated to the east of Basra, captured an outpost of the joint commando brigades of the Seventh Corps: the 28th Infantry Brigade of the Eighth Division and the 94th Infantry Brigade of the Third Division. Also, after a heavy battle, the defense lines of the headquarters of the 47th Infantry Brigade of the 11th Division and the headquarters of the 101st Brigade of the 30th Iraqi Army Division were smashed and these two headquarters fell into the hands of the forces of Islam. A number of high-ranking Iraqi officers, including Colonel Mahmud 'Umar, commander of the 101st Brigade of the 30th Iraqi Division, who was seriously wounded, were captured by the combatants of Islam, and a large number of Iraqi officers fled from the battlefield.

The liberation of 11 brigade headquarters of the Zionist Iraqi Army yesterday and today, which followed extensive destruction of combat units of the Zionist enemy, has given way to increasing disintegration and confusion in the Iraqi Army in this sector. The flight of the enemy forces, in spite of the repeated threats by Iraqi commanders, can be clearly observed.

With the speedy and powerful advance of the combatants of Islam in the operational axes, a further 50 square kilometers of the Karbala-5 operational sector have been liberated and have fallen under the control of the victorious combatants of Islam. This means that, since the start of the Karbala-5 offensive, 150 square kilometers in the western regions of Shalamcheh and east of Basra have been liberated and are under the control of the forces of Islam. Our forces are now consolidating their positions and control every movement and troop deployment of the Zionist enemy, and are crushing their troop concentrations.

If you assist God, He will verily assist you and make your step firm. [verse from the Koran]

IRGC Fires on Iraqi Gunboats
LD171305 Tehran IRNA in English 1257 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Jan 17, IRNA — Movements of several Iraqi gunboats around Al-Amaya and Al-Bakr platforms came under the coastal artillery fire of the Islamic Revolution's Guard Corps (IRGC) Friday and Saturday. The enemy boats were forced to flee from the region sustaining some damage.

Iraqi Planes Bomb Ahvaz Dwellings
LD171723 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, several Iraqi planes bombed the civilian areas of Ahvaz at 1715 today in retaliation against the victories achieved by Islamic combatants during the Karbala-5 and -6 operations. A number of our compatriots were killed or wounded and a number of dwellings destroyed.

Communique No 15 Issued
LD171727 Tehran IRNA in English 1716 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] Khatem ol-Anbiya' Hq., Jan 17, IRNA — Some 1,500 more Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded in clashes with Iran's Muslim forces in the southern Karbala-5 operational theater Friday night and Saturday bringing to 27,000, the Iraqi casualty toll since the start of the operations January 9, reported Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters Saturday.

In its 15th communique the headquarters said that villages of Kharnabat, Sa'diyah, Khayyen, Sulaymaniyah, Hisjan, Jasim, and Atbar in the region were liberated in the surprise Iranian assault.

An Iraqi brigade commander along with several battalion commanders took refuge with the Iranian Muslim combatants Saturday morning, it said.

Khatem ol-Anbiya', the joint headquarters of Iran's Army and the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) added that the number of Iraqi prisoners of war (POW's) transferred to safe places behind the fronts reached 1,750, among them 60 ranking officers and hundreds of non-commissioned officers (NCO's).

Iran's Muslim combatants consolidated their new positions on

Bawarin Island in Shalamcheh region Saturday afternoon and continued their advance toward their goals, the headquarters said. It added that another 50 square kms of the region were liberated by the Muslim forces.

The Iranian forces now have a firm grip on the liberated region in east of Basra and by pounding Iraqi military equipment have hindered enemy activities.

Iraqi Brigade 439 'Wiped Out'
LD170814 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0758 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention: According to a report received from the Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, during operations carried out by the combatants of Islam last night, the Iraqi 439th Brigade — which had been sent back to the operational zone after reorganization — was completely wiped out by the combatants of Islam. Its elements have been killed, wounded, or taken prisoner by the combatants of Islam.

Iraqi Planes Bomb Tabriz, Esfahan
NC170611 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the cities of Tabriz and Esfahan were the targets of Zionist enemy aerial aggression last night which resulted in the destruction of some homes.

Further Iraqi Attacks Cited
LD180535 Tehran IRNA in English 0533 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 18, IRNA — Iraqi planes attacked several Iranian cities Saturday night and early Sunday morning. Sunday morning Iraqi attacks were on three cities of Tabriz, Esfahan, and Arak, all of which have been victims of the recently escalated Iraqi attacks on Iranian cities. No casualties were caused by the Sunday morning air raids.

The attack on the capital city of east Azerbayjan Province, Tabriz, at 06:02 hours local time (02:32 hours GMT) damaged several houses. The air raid on the ancient central city of Esfahan caused no casualties and in another central city, Arak, only the airspace of the city was broken.

The red alert siren that went off in Tehran at 06:02 local time was due to the said attacks.

On Saturday night the three cities of Tabriz, Esfahan, and Qom were once again targetted by the Iraqi planes. In Tabriz, 15 civilians were martyred and scores of others were injured.

In Esfahan a home was hit as a result of which one civilian was martyred and 13 were injured, 6 of whom received out patient treatment.

The Iraqi plane which attempted to bombard the holy city of Qom was intercepted. The red alert siren which sounded in Tehran last night was due to the attack.

7 'Eagle' Missiles Fired at Basra
LD162123 Tehran IRNA in English 2121 GMT 16 Jan 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Jan 17, IRNA — Iran fired seven Oqab (Eagle) missiles at economic and military installations in the Iraqi city of Basra over the 48 hours preceding Friday evening. The attacks were in retaliation for enemy military attacks on civilian areas over the past week which have claimed hundreds of civilian lives. The missile attacks inflicted extensive casualties and damage on the Iraqi Ba'thists.

Iranian artillery and missile attacks on Basra have forced its residents to start immediate evacuations over the past few days.

Advance Reaches Iraqi Oil Complex
NC180820 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] Islamic combatants are now stationed on the Iraqi islands liberated in the Karbala-5 operations after purging the area of the blight of the Saddamist enemy's presence. Our correspondent sent the following report from the Karbala-5 operational sector:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] The valiant combatants of the monotheistic forces have transformed the hopes of the East and West into despondency through their onslaught on the infidel Saddamist armies and are forging ahead to extract the last breath from the deceived Iraqi forces. O martyr-nurturist nation! The courageous, monotheistic forces continue their relentless battle in the Karbala-5 sector and have consolidated their positions on the islands of Bawarin, 11 km long; Umm al-Tuwaylah, 8 km long; and (Fayaziyah), 3 km long. The Islamic forces have continued their advance after killing and wounding thousands of the declining Iraqi forces and have reached the Iraqi petrochemical complex. The residual forces of the Saddamist army have staged a cowardly retreat, reminiscent of the Ba'thists' fleeing from Khorramshahr. The enemy forces sustained heavy casualties on these islands, and in fleeing many drowned in the Arvand River. A large number of Iraqis, including some colonels and other officers, have been captured by our forces.

O resistant heroic nation! In the course of the ruthless battle by your offspring, you great nation, the township of Du'ayji and the posts of (Hudud), Khayyen, and (Kharrubiyah) have been purged of the unholy presence of the Saddamists. In these operations, the villages of (Kharnubiyah), Sa'diyah, Khayyen, and Al-Sulaymaniyah have been completely liberated and secured. The monotheistic forces have also liberated (Al 'Utaybah), west of Shalamcheh, the border bastion of Iraq, and the Al-Miqdad Canal and consolidated them. May God be your succorer, and may the prayers of the heroic nation accompany you.

Special correspondent, Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Karbala-5 operational sector [end recording]

'Losses' Inflicted on Iraqi Brigades

LD181005 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0938 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners. Oh heroic nation of Iran, please pay attention. The mighty combatants of the Army of Islam, in the course of their operation last night in the region southeast of Basra, succeeded in conducting heavy and heroic onslaughts on the units of the enemy in the (Fayaziyah) and Umm al Tuwaylah Islands. They destroyed 90 percent of 2 battalions of the 82d Infantry Brigade of the 4th Army Division, and 1 battalion of the 38th Brigade of the 12th Armored Division and the 23d Infantry Brigade, and inflicted heavy losses on the 47th Infantry Brigade of the 11th Division. A large number of Ba'thist enemy forces were killed or wounded.

Iraqi 108th Brigade 'Dispersed'

LD180939 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0925 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention. News has just been received from the Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters that the heavy fighting by the mighty combatants of Islam in the west of the country is continuing and the brave soldiers of the Army of Islam, while advancing into the depths of the Iraqi forces' position, have dispersed the rest of the enemy's 108th Infantry Brigade.

Jet Fighters Bomb Iraqi Cities

LD181011 Tehran IRNA in English 1002 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 18, IRNA — Iranian jet fighters in four separate missions bombed military and economic installations of 'Aqrah and 'Ali al-Sharqi cities as well as Iraqi positions in Karbala-5 operational region, Sunday.

A joint staff command communique issued here said that the attacks were carried out mid-day Sunday in which Iraqi military and economic installations in the two cities as well as enemy fortifications and armoured equipment in the region were heavily bombed.

All Iranian planes returned to base safely, the communique added.

Iraqi Headquarters Held Total 13

LD181035 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1024 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Heroic nation of Iran, please pay attention! The steadfast combatants of the Islamic Army, continuing the Karbala-5 operations, succeeded in capturing the headquarters of 37th Armored Brigade and the 802d Infantry Brigade after a fierce fight and following the demolition of defensive lines of the enemy. So far, following the capture of the 2 headquarters, 13 command headquarters of the enemy have been captured in the east of Basra by the Islamic forces.

Abu al Khasib 'Within Fire Range'

LD181043 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala-5 Operational Region, Jan 18, IRNA — The Iraqi port city of Abu al-Khasib is now within the fire range of the Muslim combatants of Iran. In the continuation of their advance, Muslim forces of Iran are now 400 meters from the port city of Abu al-Khasib, west of the Shatt al 'Arab waterway. Abu al-Khasib is a big port city in which numerous burnt cargo ships are in evidence.

The Muslim combatants of Iran are now stationed in an area 13 kilometres from the eastern bank of the Shatt al-'Arab River, inside Iraqi territory.

2 Missiles Fired at Basra 18 Jan

LD181059 Tehran IRNA in English 1052 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Jan 18, IRNA — Two ground-to-ground "Oghab" (Eagle) missiles were fired at the military-economic centers of the Iraqi port city of Basra Sunday morning. The missiles were fired by the Ground Forces of the Army at 07:00 and 07:15 hours local time (03:30 and 03:45 hours GMT) in retaliation for the Iraqi attacks on residential areas in Iranian cities.

Residents of the city are steadily abandoning the city as a result of the Iranian shelling on the military and economic centers of Basra. Western media Saturday reported on the evacuation of hundreds of thousands of residents from the city.

2 Iraqi Headquarters 'Liberated'

LD181106 Tehran IRNA in English 1055 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala-5 Operational Theater, Jan 18, IRNA — The headquarters of Iraqi Armoured Brigade 27 and Infantry Brigade 802 on Umm al-Tuwaylah and Fayaziyah [name as received] Islands in Shalamcheh region were liberated and all enemy soldiers based in them were either killed, wounded, or captured by Iranian Muslim combatants on Sunday. The Muslim forces of Iran also seized all military equipment at these liberated headquarters.

Thirteen Iraqi command headquarters in Shalamcheh region were liberated by Iran's Muslim forces since the start of the Karbala-5 operations on January 9.

Communique No 16 Issued

LD181142 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] Communique No 16, released by the Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, was issued minutes ago, as follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The mighty forces of the monotheistic Islamic Republic combatants continue their epic, making the Islamic nation more proud.

The brave combatants of the monotheistic army, comprising the warriors of Khatem ol-Anbiya' Brigade of Tehran, Imam Reza Brigade of Nasr Division, the special Shohada Division of Khorasan, Qa'em Brigade of Semnan, Nabi Akram Brigade of Bakhtaran, Ali Ibn 'Ali Talib Division from the central province, and Abulfazl al-'Abbas Brigade from Lorestan Province, part of the units of the infantry forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards, launched an attack last night on the enemy in the Karbala-5 operational theater. After fierce fighting, they succeeded in liberating the important islands of Umm al-Tuwaylah and (Fayaziyah), 11 km southeast of Basra.

Having corssed Khayyen and small Shatt al 'Arab Rivers, the Islamic forces established complete control over 3 kilometers of the Shat al 'Arab areas and islands inside Iraq. Right now, the Islamic forces are engaged in fortifying their positions within 400 meters of the large port of Abu al-Khasib and Iraq's petrochemical complex. These two points are now within direct range of our light weapons. During these battles, two Iraqi battalions of the 37th Armored Brigade, part of the 12th Division, have been completely wiped out. The 23d Infantry Brigade is reported to have been 90 percent smashed. The 47th Infantry Brigade of the 11th Division is reported to have suffered heavy damage. Moreover, the headquarters of 37th Armored Brigade and 802d Infantry Brigade in Umm al-Tuwaylah and (Fayaziyah) Islands were defeated by our forces. Fierce fighting is raging in this area in order to achieve other objectives.

In the Karbala-6 operational theater, the brave Ground Forces of the Islamic Armed Forces, in northern Sumar area, launched a 2-pronged attack on the enemy and succeeded in liberating yet another part of our homeland that had been occupied by the enemy. During these operations the following damage was dealt to the enemy: 603d Infantry Brigade, 40 percent; one battalion of the 606th Infantry Brigade, one battalion of 80th Infantry Brigade, and one battalion of 45th Brigade, part of the 17th Division, 40 to 70 percent; also one commando unit of the 16th Iraqi Division, 20 percent. As for the remaining parts of 108th Brigade, they were totally wiped out. The 2d Mountain Infantry Brigade, 60 percent. As a result, more than 1,000 enemy troops were either killed or wounded. The rest are reported to have fled, having failed to put up any resistance. Furthermore, two enemy helicopters were shot down by our air defense.

The Islamic combatants also destroyed 20 tanks and personnel carriers and several military vehicles in this area. God bless them all.

Iraqi Commander Held at Bawarin

LD161723 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Jan 87

[Excerpt] Khatem al-Anbiya' — The commander of the Iraqi 506th Infantry Brigade has been taken as prisoner by Islamic combatants. He is a senior officer with the rank of brigadier general. He was captured this morning when Islamic troops landed at Bawarin Island. At present, Islamic forces control a sector of the island. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Plane Downed; Total Now 43

LD161616 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 16 Jan 87

[Text] Khatem-ol-Anbiya' Hq., Jan. 16, IRNA — Another Iraqi warplane was shot down by Iranian Muslim combatants in southern Iraq, bringing the number of downed enemy planes to 43 during the week-long Karbala-5 offensive. No report was immediately available on the fate of downed plane's pilot.

Air Force Bombs Iraqi Positions

LD181659 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] According to a report from the Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, to give support to the combatants of Islam, at 0905, 1058, 1532, and 1612 [0535, 0728, 1202, and 1242 GMT, respectively] today, the fast-flying Iranian Air Force pilots heavily bombed the positions of the Ba'thist Zionist enemy in the Karbala-5 theater, inflicting heavy losses and casualties. They all returned safely to their bases.

Missiles Hit Iraqi Troop Centers

LD181742 Tehran IRNA in English 1718 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala-5 Operational Region, Jan 18, IRNA — Two mid-range surface-to-surface Iranian missiles devastated Iraqi fortifications and troop concentration centers in this war theater at 14:14 and 15:33 hours (10:44 and 12:33 GMT) Sunday.

Iraqi forces sustained heavy casualties and losses in the Iranian missile attacks launched by the missile unit of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC).

Iraqis Bomb Residential Areas

LD181804 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 18, IRNA — Iraqi warplanes bombed residential areas in the Iranian cities of Sanandaj, Masjed-e Soleyman, Ilam, Malayer, Dezful, Nahavand, Borujerd, and Esfahan Sunday martyring and wounding a large number of civilians.

In Sanandaj, Kordestan Province, bodies of 135 martyrs were recovered by relief workers until 19:00 hours (15:30 GMT) Sunday. Scores of other civilians were wounded and one school and several houses were destroyed in the air raid.

In Masjed-Soleyman, Khuzestan Province, the number of martyrs was put at 25 until 18:30 hours (15:00 gmt). Several civilians were also wounded.

Scores of people were martyred and wounded in other Iraqi air raids on residential areas in Malayer, Ilam, Dezful, Nahavand, and Borujerd Sunday. There is yet no report on the exact casualty tolls.

The intruding Iraqi jet fighters attempted to bomb the holy city of Qom Sunday but were repelled by heavy Iranian artillery fire.

Iraqi's bombing of Esfahan Sunday had no casualty and enemy fighters dropped their bombs on nearby plains while fleeing.

Iraq has escalated its bombardment of civilians areas in Iran at a time it is suffering the heaviest defeat ever in its fighting with Iran.

34 Killed, 50 Wounded in Air Raids
LD181951 Tehran IRNA in English 1838 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 18, IRNA — Thirty four civilians were martyred and 50 others wounded in Iraqi air attacks on residential areas of Nahavand and Malayer in Hamadan Province Sunday. Twenty three civilians were martyred, and a school was heavily damaged in Nahavand.

In Malayer, 11 persons were martyred and 50 others wounded in the air raid. Several houses, one mosque, one hospital, and one kindergarten were also damaged.

Further Casualties Reported
LD181954 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Jan 18, IRNA — Thirty one civilians were martyred and 200 others wounded in Iraqi air raid on the residential areas in Masjed-e Soleyman Sunday. Earlier reports put the number of martyrs at 25. Relief worker are searching for other possible bodies under the rubble.

At least 450 houses and shops were destroyed or damaged and 50 private and public vehicles were set ablaze in the raid. Two 500 cubic meter water tanks were also damaged.

Six Iraqi warplanes bombed seven civilian areas in Masjed-e Soleyman at 15:25 hours (11:55 GMT) Sunday.

Casualties in Sanandaj Reach 235
LD190955 Tehran IRNA in English 0930 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Text] Sanandaj, Kordestan Prov., Jan 19, IRNA — The martyrdom toll of the Iraqi bombardment of Sanandaj, Sunday evening, rose to 235. In the Iraqi air raid on this capital city scores of other civilians were injured and tens of homes and shops were either destroyed or damaged.

Forces Cross River, Encircle Iraqis
LD190755 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0745 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] According to Khatem ol-Anbiya' reports, the Islamic combatants, enjoying divine succour have continued their brave battle. Clashing with the Ba'thist Army of Iraq in a fierce engagement, they have crossed Jasim River and completely encircled the Iraqi 5th Mechanized Division.

'Fall' of More Islands 'Imminent'
LD190814 Tehran IRNA in English 0800 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala-5 Operational Region, Jan 19, IRNA — The Sunday night thrust of the Muslim forces of Iran in the operational theater of the ongoing Karbala-5 operations, has made fall of the four more islands imminent.

Capture of the Iraqi islands of Bawarin, Umm al Tuwaylah,and Fayaziyah [spelling as received] has made fall of the Iraqi islands of Umm al Rasas, Al-Baljaniyah, and east and west Sindbad [spelling as received] imminent.

The Iranian forces Sunday night crossed the Jasim River, 10 kms east of Basra and attacked the Iraqi Fifth Mechanised Division, inflicting heavy losses and damage.

The Infantry Division 15 of Iraq's Seventh Corps in the operational region of Karbala-5 is encircled by the Iranian forces.

Some 2,100 Iraqi POW's have been transferred behind war fronts since the start of the operation Jan 9.

Operations Enter 'Third Phase'
LD190836 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0800 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Attention. According to a report from the Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, Islamic combatants last night launched the third phase of the "Karbala-5" operations. They launched a speedy onslaught along the Shatt al-'Arab and advanced deep inside Iraqi positions. Our forces killed a number of Iraqi troops and took a considerable number of Iraqi prisoners. More than 100 Iraqis have since been transferred behind the lines.

Reports from the operational area say the Islamic warriors have encircled a number of enemy units and are dealing them successive blows. Chaos rules the enemy defense lines, with the Iraqi Army commanders being unable to control their units.

Supply Depots Destroyed in Advance
LD190909 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0820 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Heroic nation of Iran. Please pay attention. According to reports from Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, the fighting men of the Army of monotheism, continuing the third phase of the "Karbala-5"operations, which began last night with a lightning onslaught by the Islamic combatants west of Shalamcheh, Islam's forces penetrated deep inside enemy positions, and hours ago pounded positions of the Iraqi regime's forces on the opposite

side of Jasim River. The men of Islam, stationed on the opposite side of the river, advanced further inflicting much damage and killing and injuring hundreds of the enemy forces. Smoke and fire from tens of enemy tanks, APC's, and other vehicles envelops the operational region. A number of enemy ammunition dumps and supply depots were also hit by fire from Islam's forces and destroyed.

Enemy Casualties Exceed 1,500

LD190934 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0907 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Unscheduled announcement No 7]

[Text] Attention, heroic nation. According to a report from the Karbala-5 operational theater, the Islamic combatants, continuing the third phase of the "Karbala-5" operations, have dealt blows to Iraqi forces' materiel and personnel. On the basis of latest reports and figures from the operational fields, during the early hours of this morning 12 Iraqi tanks and personnel carriers and 20 other vehicles were destroyed. Some vehicles have been captured intact. Moreover, according to latest figures, the number of enemy casualties during the third phase of the operations exceeds 1,500, with the defeated enemy forces fleeing in the operational zones.

The Islamic warriors continue their advance toward the predetermined objectives.

Forces Advance Beyond Jasim River

LD190951 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0922 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Heroic nation of Iran, please pay attention! According to a report from Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, received just now, the mighty combatants of Islam, continuing their victorious advances in the course of the third phase of Karbala 5 operations, succeeded in advancing 1 kilometer beyond Jasim River. They are stationed along a 3-kilometer front on the opposite side of the river while consolidating their positions in this sensitive area. According to the same report, a number of infantry and mechanized units of the enemy received much damage due to advances made by the Islamic combatants at this locality.

Fighting Continues in Karbala-6 Area

LD171129 Tehran IRNA in English 1118 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala-6 Operational Region, Jan 17, IRNA — Heavy artillery fire was exchanged and hand-to-hand fighting continued on the fourth day of Karbala-6 operations launched in Sumar area, western fronts. During the past four days the Iraqi enemy launched 12 counterattacks which were crushed one after another despite heavy air and ground support.

Latest report said that 5,200 Iraqi forces were killed or injured as of Saturday morning. An Iraqi plane and a helicopter were downed and tens of their tanks, personnel carriers, and vehicles were destroyed. Over 10 munition depots and most of the artillery pads of the enemy were set ablaze.

The harassed Iraqi Ba'thists have transferred units of their commando forces to Sumar operational region, one of which was smashed in their counterattack Friday afternoon.

The enemy fired flares over the operational theater, the light of which enabled Muslim combatants to open passes in some areas where they inflicted blows on the enemy.

IRNA reporters who visited the liberated areas reported that the region was littered with dead bodies of the Iraqi forces and their burnt tanks and vehicles.

The Iraqi enemy bombed the operational region with chemical substances twice but the contaminated areas were immediately cleared by anti-chemical units.

The Iraqi regime tried to land helicopter-borne troops three times during the past four days, but were foiled by the heavy fire of Muslim combatants.

Areas in Sumar Retaken

LD180757 Tehran IRNA in English 0750 GMT 18 Jan 87

["Territories in Sumar Region Retaken from Iraq" — IRNA headline]

[Text] Karbala-6 Operational Region, Jan 18, IRNA — The Muslim combatants of Iran in continuation of Karbala-6 operation, scored new gains Saturday night. The Iranian troops thrusting into enemy positions retook parts of the Iranian territory which were under enemy occupation. They also inflicted heavy losses and damage on Iraqi forces.

The areas liberated were under Iraqi occupation since the start of the Iraqi-imposed war in Sept 1980. The operation was launched last Tuesday in central sector of war fronts.

Iraqis 'Totally Disarrayed'

LD181014 Tehran IRNA in English 1001 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala-6 Operational Region, Jan 18, IRNA — Military organization of Iraqi forces in the operational region north of Sumar was totally disarrayed in the attack launched by Muslim combatants Saturday night.

In this attack parts of the Iranian territory were retook from the Iraqi enemy and remnants of Brigade 108, Infantry Brigade 2 of 26th Division, and Brigade 603 of the Second Corps sustained heavy losses.

The blow dealt on the Iraqi forces in Saturday night's attack was to the extent that it disorganized Iraqi troops in the region and halted their movement.

Missile Attack Launched on Khanaqin

LD180848 Tehran IRNA in English 0845 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala-6 Operation Region, Jan 18, IRNA — Three Oqab 'Eagle' surface-to-surface missiles of the Iranian Army hit industrial and military installations in the Iraqi city of Khanaqin, Saturday night. The missile attack was in retaliation for recent Iraqi missile and air attacks on Iranian cities.

The three missiles inflicted considerable casualties as well as damage on the installations.

Iraqi Plane Downed

LD161938 Tehran IRNA in English 1804 gmt 16 Jan 87

[Text] Sumar, Jan 16, IRNA — An Iraqi war plane which was chemically bombing the Karbala-6 operational region at 18:15 hours local time (14:45 GMT) Friday was shot down by Iran's anti-aircraft fire. There is no report on the fate of the Iraqi pilot.

Some Iranian Muslim combatants who were slightly injured in the attack were immediately transfered behind the fronts where they were treated.

Iraqi II Corps Command Hit

LD181016 Tehran IRNA in English 1005 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala-6 Operational Region, Jan 18, IRNA — One of the three surface-to-surface missiles launched by the Iranian Army Sunday morning hit the command headquarters of Iraq's 28th Division of the Second Corps. A number of Iraqi commanders were killed and several others injured in the missile attack.

Two other 'Oqab' (Eagle) missiles hit economic and military centers in Khanaqin.

2 Iraqi Helicopters Downed

LD181039 Tehran IRNA in English 1035 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala-6 Operational Region, Jan 18, IRNA — Two Iraqi helicopters were downed in the front-line of the Karbala-6 operational region, central sector of war fronts, by Iranian forces, Sunday morning. The pilots of the copters perished in the crash.

Meanwhile, Iranian Army aviation pilots bombed enemy positions west of Sumar Sunday morning. The Iranian pilots after destroying enemy troop concentration centers and armoured equipment in the region returned safely to bases.

Iraqis Deploy Chemical Weapons

LD181044 Tehran IRNA in English 1039 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala-6 Operational Region, Jan 18, IRNA — The Iraqi regime deployed chemical weapons in Karbala-6 operational region Sunday morning as a result of which a number of Muslim combatants were wounded.

Because the Iraqi forces suffer from lack of organisation, units under the command of the Iraqi 2nd Corps panicked, causing them to suffer more losses. [sentence as received]

The wounded Iranian forces were immediately transferred behind the war fronts where they were given treatment.

Immediately after the deployment of toxic chemicals, the anti-chemical weapons unit of the Iranian forces cleared the area. In previous occasions, too, the Iraqi troops themselves have been afflicted by their own chemical weapons.

The Iranian forces are firmly stationed in their positions and are protecting the areas they have liberated since the start of the operation last Tuesday.

Iraqi 603d, 2d Brigades Destroyed

LD181049 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0951 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Oh Muslim nation of Iran, please pay attention to the news we have just received from the Karbala-6 operational sector: In continuation of the engagements of the combatants of Islam with the Ba'thist-Zionist enemy in the Sumar operational sector, the forces of Islam, during intense fighting with the disintegrating forces of Iraq, succeeded in destroying the 2d Mountain Infantry Brigade and the 603d Infantry Brigade of the enemy, and the remaining troops of these brigades are now fleeing from the operational sector. On the basis of the report received, the combatants of Islam, while advancing, succeeded in mopping up the filth of the Saddamists from some sensitive regions of our Islamic homeland which had been occupied from the start of the imposed war by the Ba'thist-Zionist forces.

IRNA Cites Damage to Iraqi Forces

LD181107 Tehran IRNA in English 1100 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala-6 Operational Region, Jan 18. IRNA — Twenty Iraqi tanks and armoured vehicles were destroyed by Iranian Muslim combatants in the region Saturday night.

According to Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters scores of heavy and light vehicles of the enemy troops were also set afire in the region. The headquarters announced damage inflicted on the Iraqi forces Saturday night as follows:

A battalion from Infantry Brigade 606, 50 percent;
A Battalion from Infantry Brigade 80, 70 percent;
A battalion from Brigade 45 of Division 17, 50 percent;
A commando battalion of Division 16, 30 percent.

Iraqi Counteroffensive Beaten Back

LD161631 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 16 Jan 87

[Text] Western Operational Region, Jan 16, IRNA — Iranian Muslim combatants strongly beat back the lastest and heaviest

Iraqi counteroffensive in Karbala-6 operational region at 15:30 hours (12:00 GMT) Friday. 11 tanks and several munitions dumps and artillery pieces of the enemy forces were destroyed during the assault.

The remnants of the defeated forces were reinforced with fresh Iraqi troops who together backed by helicopter gunships attempted to retake two heights in Sumar operational region. They, however, were severely crushed by Iranian combatants and forced to retreat.

Communiques Further Update Combat Operations

No 2,718

LD161710 Tehran IRNA in English 1649 GMT 16 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 16, IRNA — Two invading Iraqi war planes were shot down in a fierce dogfight in the southern fronts at 08:27 and 12:42 hours local time (04:57 and 09:12 GMT) Friday. One of the two planes' pilots has taken prisoner by Iranian Muslim forces, according to a military communique here Friday.

Communique Number 2,817 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said that an Iraqi war plane was shot down in Karbala-5 operational region at 13:00 (09:30 GMT) Thursday by Iran's anti-aircraft fire.

Numerous Iraqi forces were killed, wounded, or captured when Muslim combatants broke through Iraqi defence lines in Shalamcheh and forced enemy forces to flee deep into the date-palm groves of the region, said the communique.

The communique said that Iran's jet fighters heavily bombed military and economic centers in the Iraqi cities of Maydan, Horavin, Kut, Diyanah, and Al-Amadiyah at 10:15, 11:39, 11:58, and 12:00 (06:45, 08:09, 08:28, and 08:30 GMT) Friday. The jet fighters returned safely to bases after carrying out their missions, it added.

Iranian jet fighters bombarded Iraqi positions and concentration centers in Karbala-5 operational region at 09:30, 11:00, 11:31, and 13:09 (06:00 07:30, 08:01, and 09:39 GMT) Friday, said the communique adding that the Iranian jet fighters returned safely to bases after carrying out their missions.

The communique said that some seven Oghab (Eagle) surface-to-surface missiles of Iran's Ground Forces have been fired at military and economic installations in Iraqi city of Basra Thursday and Friday, inflicting substantial losses on the enemy.

Iraq's Al-Bakr oil platform was shelled by Iranian artillery fire at 11:40 hours local time (08:10 GMT) Thursday sustaining damage, it said.

The communique further said that six Iraqi gunboats which attempted to break the siege of Khawr 'Abdallah waters at 20:00 hours local time (14:30 GMT) Thursday, were forced to flee by Iran's coastal artillery fire.

Exchange of artillery and tank fire raged on in the western and north-western fronts over Thursday and Friday as a result of which numerous Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded, said the communique. At least ten vehicles, three artillery pieces as well as some tanks of the enemy forces were destroyed in the said region, it added.

Invading Iraqi war planes bombed the Iranian cities of Qom and Arak at 12:45 and 13:30 (09:15, 10:00 GMT) Friday martyring and wounding some civilians, said the communique, adding that one of the invading planes was shot down by Iran's anti-aircraft fire. Its pilot was taken prisoner, it said.

No 2,719

LD171724 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 17, IRNA — Iraqi warplanes bombed residential areas in Esfahan, Dehloran, Ilam, Kuhdasht, Ahvaz, Tehran Friday night and Saturday martyring and wounding scores of civilians, said a military communique here.

Communique Number 2,719 released by the Joint Staff Command of Iran's Armed Forces said that Iraqi fighter bombers dropped chemical bombs on the western operational theater of Sumar at 14:45 GMT Friday.

The joint staff communique said that at least 500 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and two Iraqi jet fighters and a helicopter were shot down when an enemy counterattack to retake their lost positions in Sumar theater was smashed by Muslim forces of Iran Saturday afternoon. Four enemy tanks, five heavy vehicles and three artillery pieces were also destroyed in the smashed counter-offensive, it added.

Elsewere, the communique said that another Iraqi counterattack to recapture the strategic heights in Sumar region especially heights number 402 was repulsed by tyhe Iranian forces Friday night, with the Iraqi forces sustaining heavy casualties and losses. They were also forced to retreat.

In the southern fronts, the communique said, Iranian Muslim combatants suppressed an assault launched by Iraqi troops, who have suffered bitter defeats in the Karbala-5 operational theater, in Tala'iyeh sustaining heavy casualties and damage. The enemy troops were also grounded in their positions. Seven Iraq patrol boats attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in this theater were forced to flee by artillery fire on the Muslim combatants.

The military communique said that Iraqi positions and armoured units in the Karbala-5 theater were heavily bombed by Iranian jet fighters at 09:11, 10:06, 12:57, and 13:43 hours (05:41, 06:36, 09:27, and 10:13 GMT) Saturday. The fighters returned safely after inflicting substantial casualties and losses on enemy troops, it added.

Iranian long range artillery fire began to hit all Iraqi economic, military, and industrial centers in Iraqi soil across the war fronts as of 17:30 hours (14:00 GMT) Friday, the communique said.

Iran's Navy gun boats shelled two Iraqi vessels in Khawr 'Abdallah waterway Friday inflicting heavy damage on them and forcing them to flee.

No 2,720

LD181711 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 18, IRNA — Scores of civilians were martyred and wounded as intruding Iraqi warplanes bombed residential areas in the Iranian cities of Esfahan, Tabriz, Dezful, Sanandaj, and Ilam Saturday night and Sunday, said a military communique here Saturday. It also said the Kurdish city of Marivan in Kordestan Province was hit by long-range Iraqi fire Saturday.

Communique Number 2,720 released by the Joint Staff Command of Iran's Armed Forces said that Iran's Muslim forces stormed Iraqi positions in Sumar operational theater Saturday night, killing or wounding a large number of enemy soldiers and forcing the others to retreat.

Iranian jet fighters heavily bombed military and economic centers of the Iraqi cities of Aqrah, 'Ali al Sharqi, and Jalula' at 08:18, 10:18, and 13:00 hours (04:48, 06:48, and 09:30 GMT) Sunday inflicting heavy casualties and losses on enemy troops. The fighters returned safely to bases, it added.

In a bid to provide aircover for the advancing Iranian troops in the Karbala-5 theater in Shalamcheh region, Iranian fighter bombers heavily pounded Iraqi fortifications and armoured units at 05:35, 07:28, 10:36, 12:02, and 13:42 GMT Sunday. The fighters returned safely to bases after inflicting substantial casualties and losses on Iraqi troops.

Another Iraqi warplane was hit and downed by a surface-to-air missile of Iranian anti-aircraft units in a southern theater at 17:17 hours (13:47 GMT) Saturday, the communique said.

Iranian forces shelled some Iraqi patrol boats which tried to infiltrate their positions in Jofeyr, southern fronts, Saturday destroying a number of enemy boats and forcing the others to flee.

Iranian long-range artillery fire continued hitting Iraqi military and economic centers inside Iraqi soil across the western Iranian border Saturday night and Sunday dealing crucial blows on them, it said.